寿命を
買い取ってもらった。
一年につき、
一万円で。
I sold my life for ten thousand yen per year.
I sold my life
for
ten thousand yen
per year.
1
the first
volume
JUMP COMICS+
三秋縋
田口囁一

In the summer ten years from now,
we'll finally feel like we're glad to have lived,
deep in our hearts.
And we'll show up those dunces.
Able to drink,
and to smoke.
Ten years?
We'll be 20 then.
And to marry...
well, that comes earlier.
Why?
There's too much stuff I don't like.
Me too.
Ahaha...
But,
I don't feel like I'll be able to do it.
Well, in that case...

When we turn twenty, and get famous...
If by then,
shameful as it is,
we haven't found anyone we want to marry...
If that hap-pens.

Would you want to be with me...
as fellow "people left on the shelf"?

It's a joke.
Just forget it, okay?
What's that about?
Really now...
I just wanted to hear myself say it.
As if I would ever go unsold.

新連載

第一話

New Series
Chapter 1

寿命を
買い取ってもらった。
一年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off
My Lifespan,
For 10,000 Yen A Year.

いなくなる人のこと、
好きになっても、
仕方ないんですけどね。

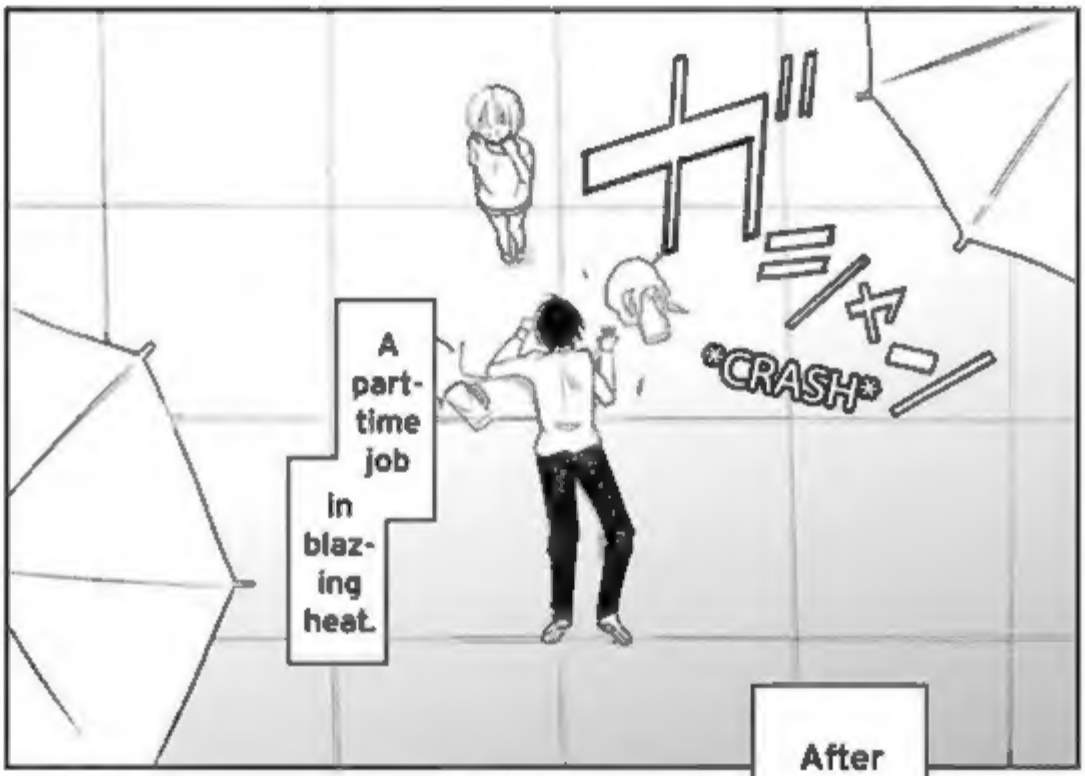
Though it's no use
loving someone
who's soon to go away.

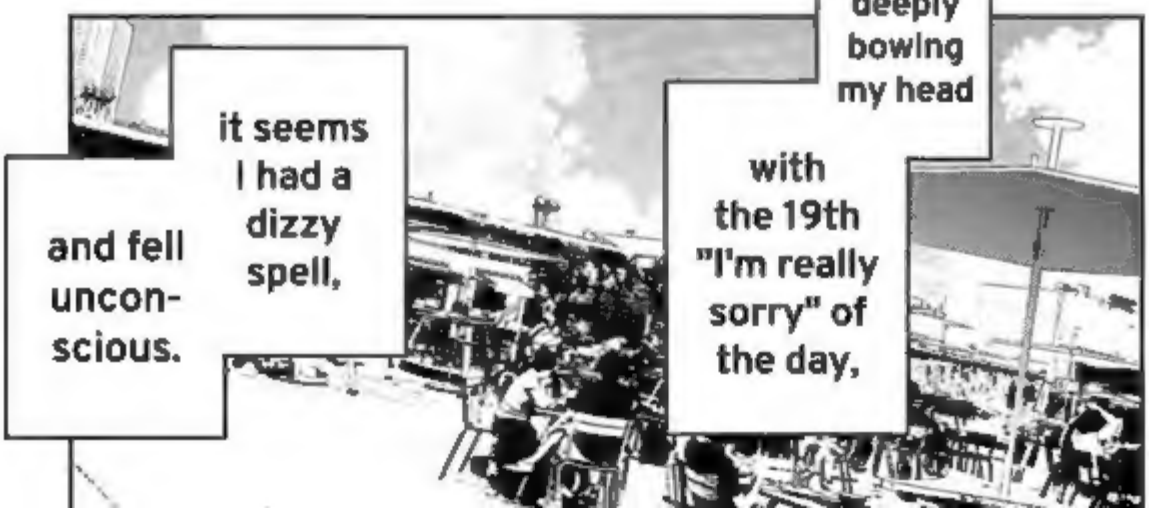
Original: Sugaru Miaki ('Three Days of Happiness' from Media Works Bunko)
Manga: Shoichi Taguchi
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

原作：三秋 縋　漫画：田口囁一
（メディアワークス文庫『三日間の幸福』）
キャラクターデザイン：E9L・田口囁一

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.
寿命を買い取ってもらった。一年につき、一万円で

I'm really sorry.

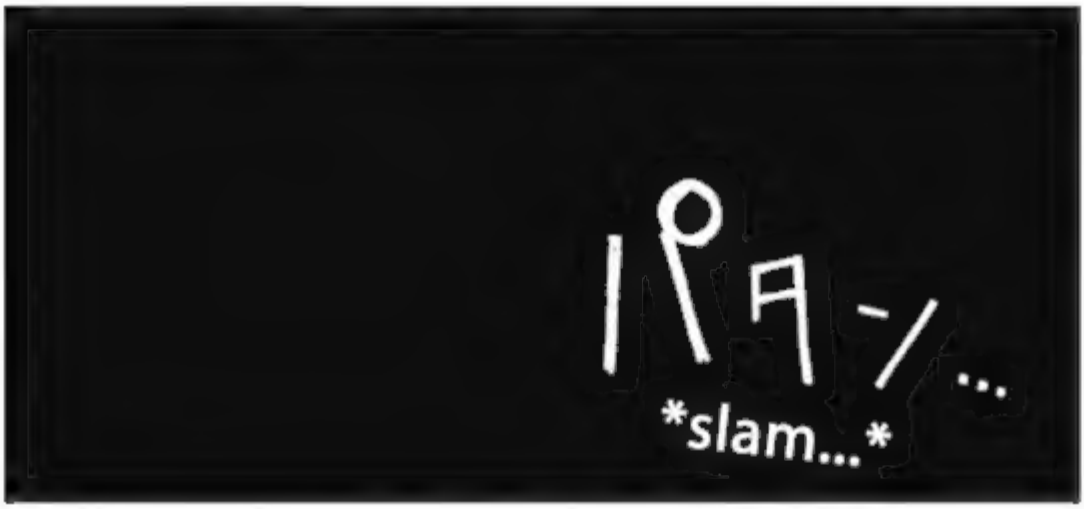

A part-time job in blazing heat.
CRASH

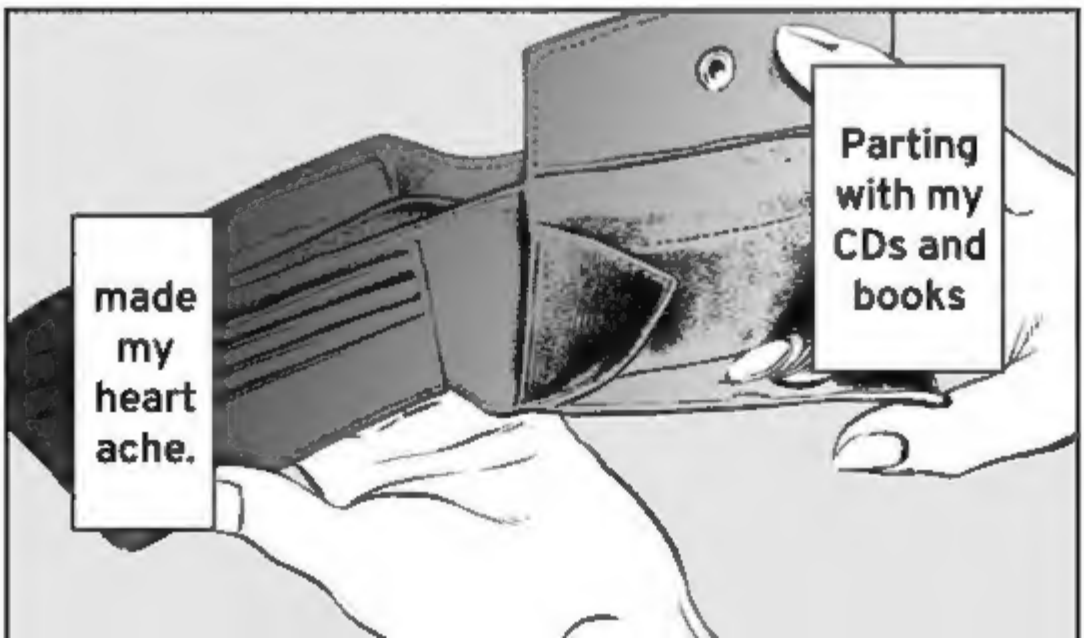

After deeply bowing my head
with the 19th "I'm really sorry" of the day,
it seems I had a dizzy spell,
and fell unconscious.

From Manager
Sub
Seemed like a rough day yesterday. Take care and rest a while.
END

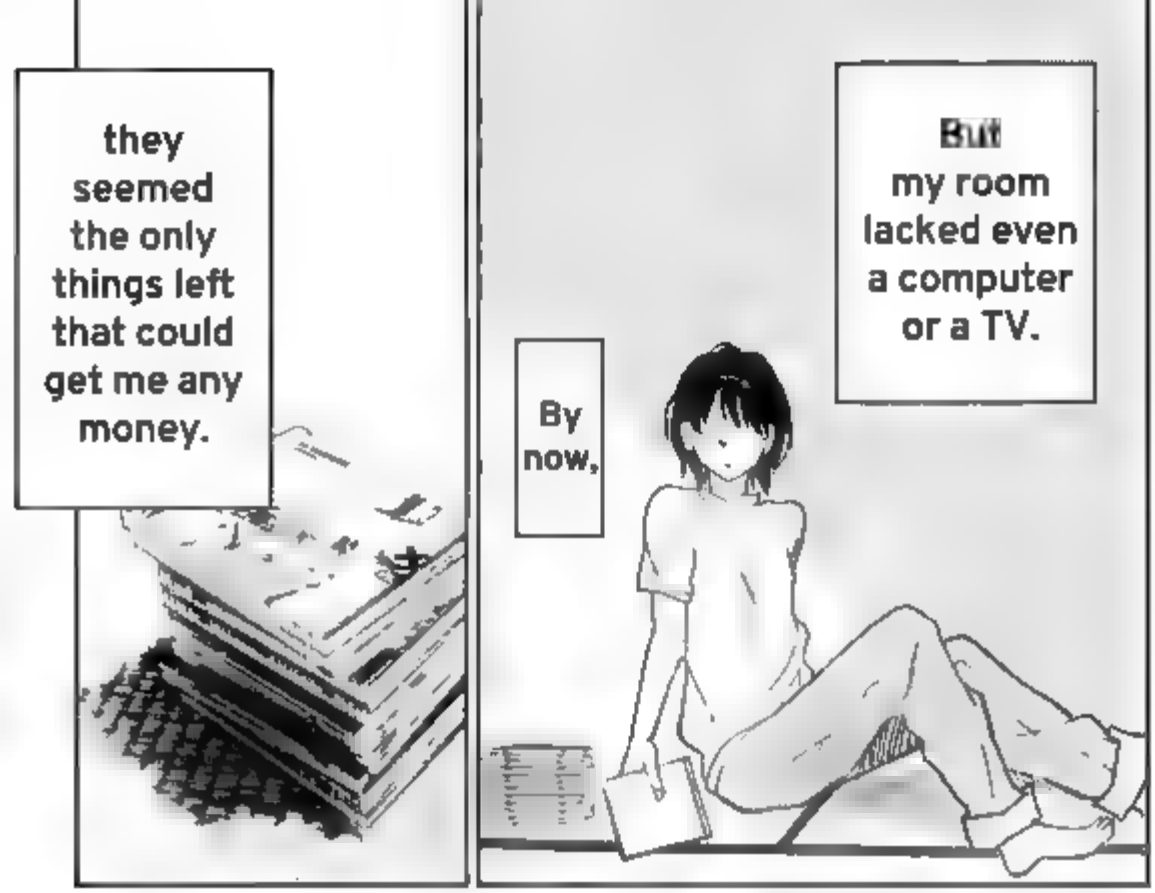
...

...

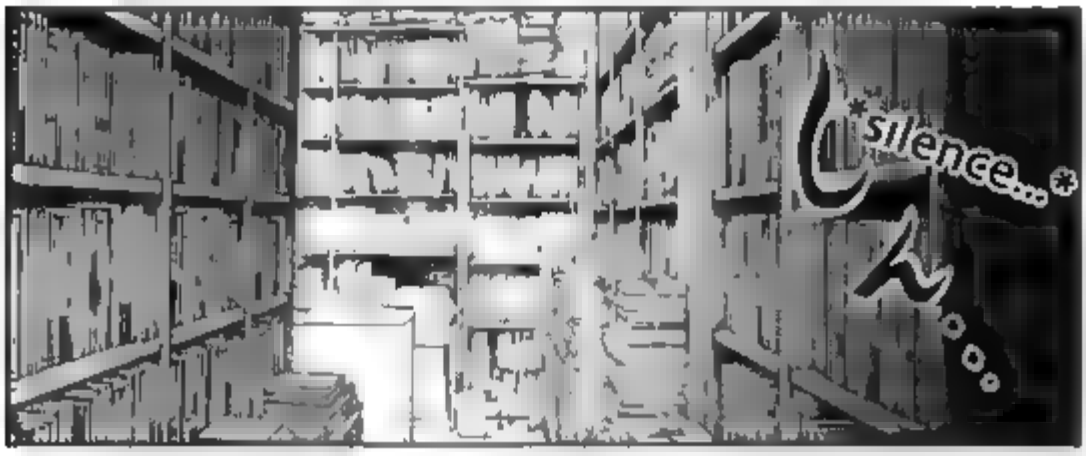

パタン...
slam...


Parting with my CDs and books
made my heart ache.

They were all second-hand.
Purchases I'd made with careful consider-ation...


they seemed the only things left that could get me any money.
By now,
But my room lacked even a computer or a TV.

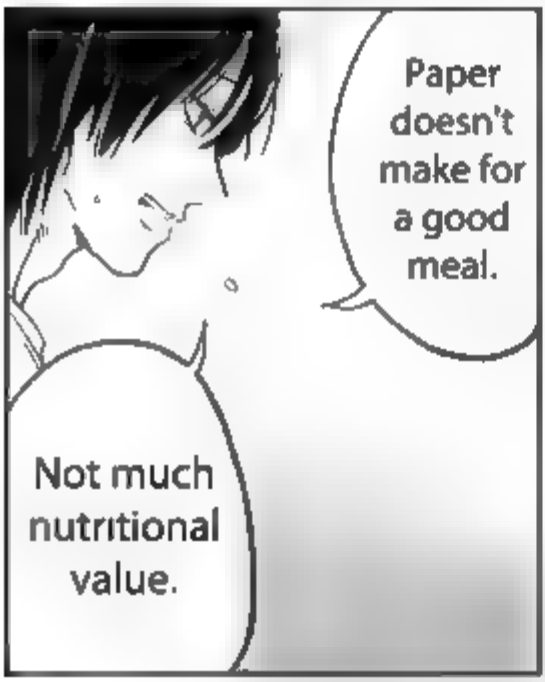
rattle


silence...

Hello.
I'm here to sell some books.

Are you moving or some-thing?
...

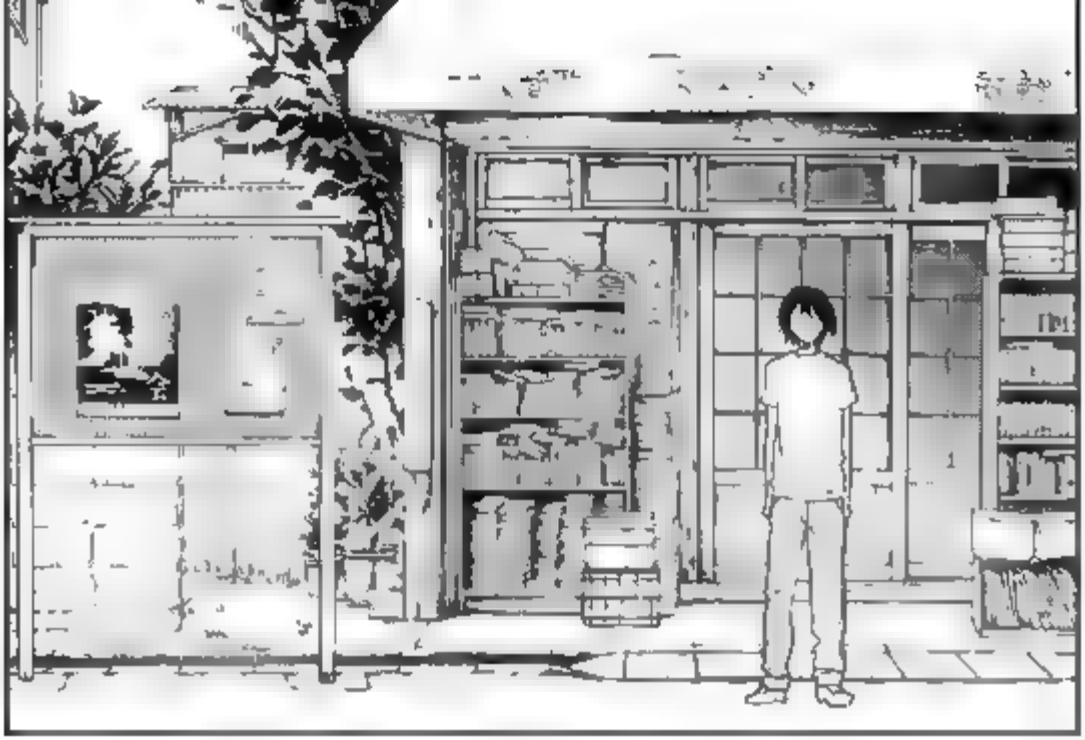
Well then...
No.
Nothing like that.


Paper doesn't make for a good meal.
Not much nutritional value.

Why do something so waste-ful?

It'll take about thirty minutes to evaluate.

Short on cash, eh...

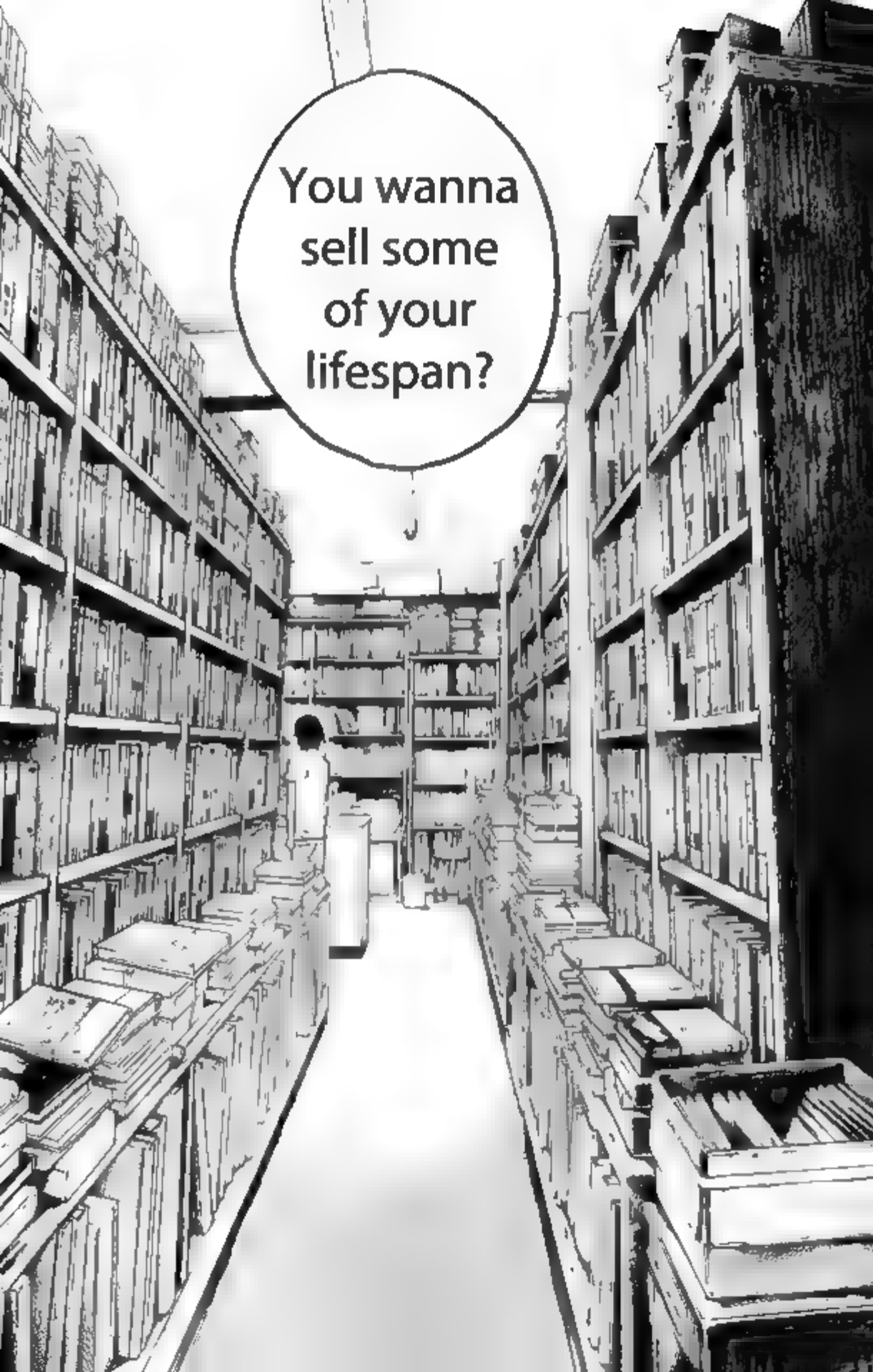


...

I've got something to tell you about.

... Hey.

...
It's not like it's anything recent.
You're hurting for money, right?
...
What is it?
Well,
I don't care to know how poor you are,
or why things got that way.
That's not my interest.
...
I just wanna ask you
one thing.


You wanna sell some of your lifespan?

Life-span?
...

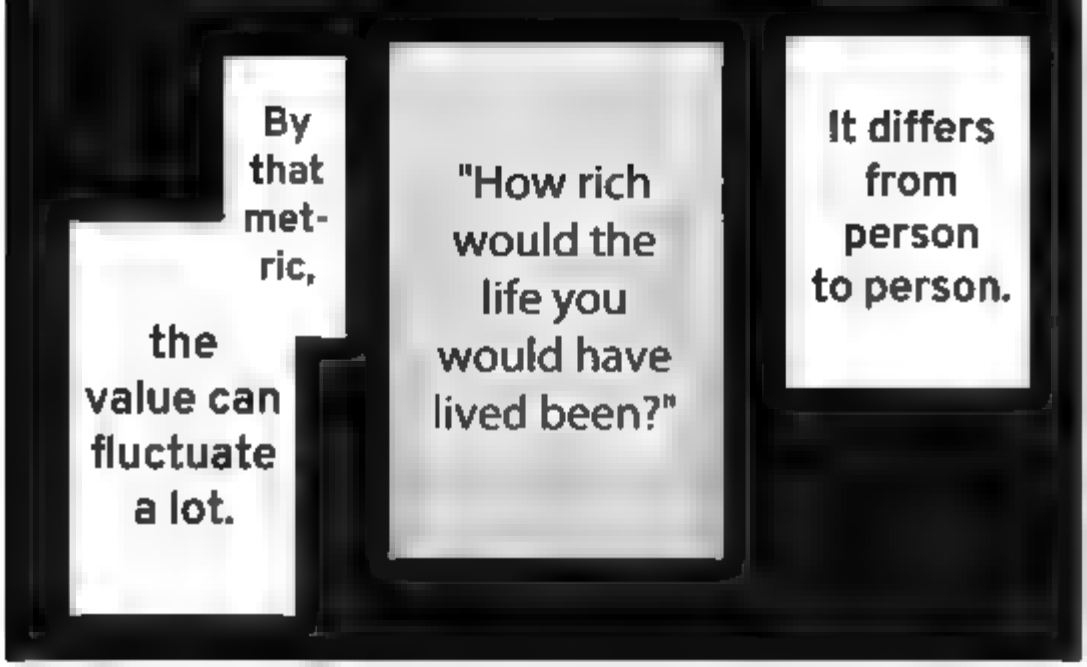
Oh, but,
it's not like I'm the one buying it.
Life-span.
Yeah.

Couldn't blame you for thinking I'm joking.
Or thinking this old coot's gone senile.

I know it sells for a lot, though.
...

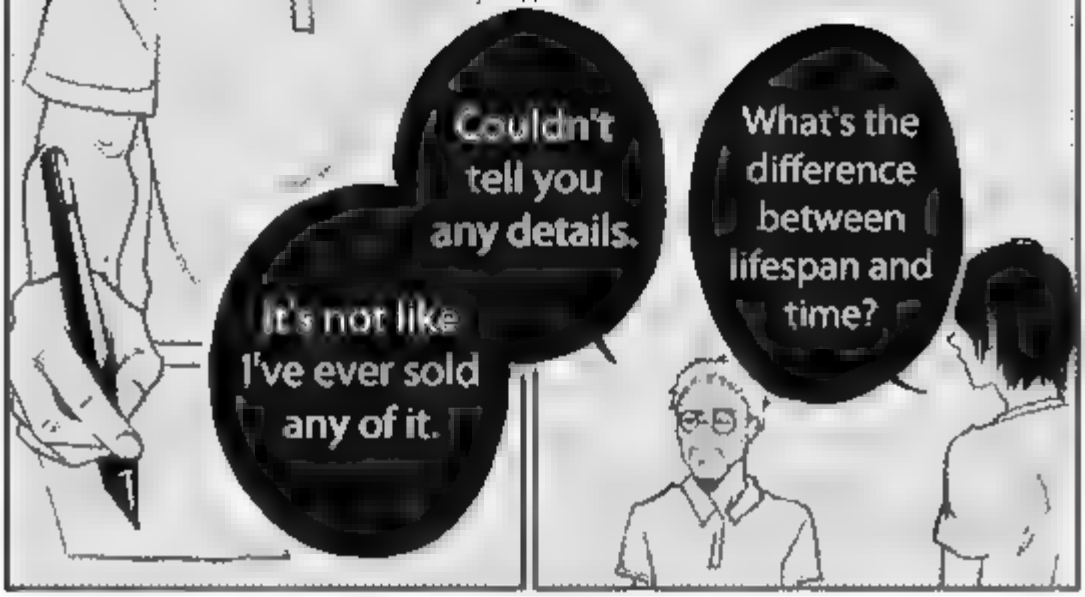
You'll see I'm not lying.
But if you want to entertain my nonsense,
go take a look. I'll tell you where.

In short, this is what he told me.
On the fourth floor of a nearby building,
there's a shop that buys lifespan.

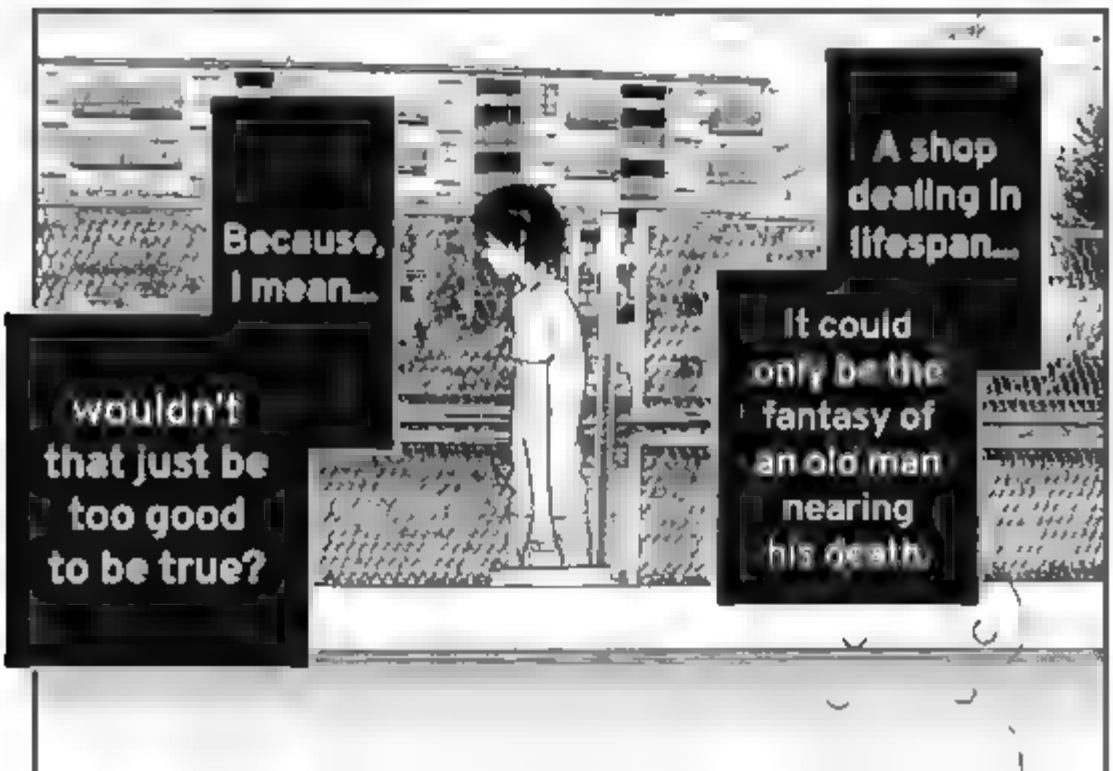

By that metric,
the value can fluctuate a lot.
"How rich would the life you would have lived been?"
It differs from person to person.

and you've got decent taste in books.
but you don't look like a bad guy,
I don't really know you much at all,

Besides lifespan,
apparently they'll buy "time" and "health" too.
Must have some value, right?
...


Couldn't tell you any details.
It's not like I've ever sold any of it.
What's the difference between lifespan and time?

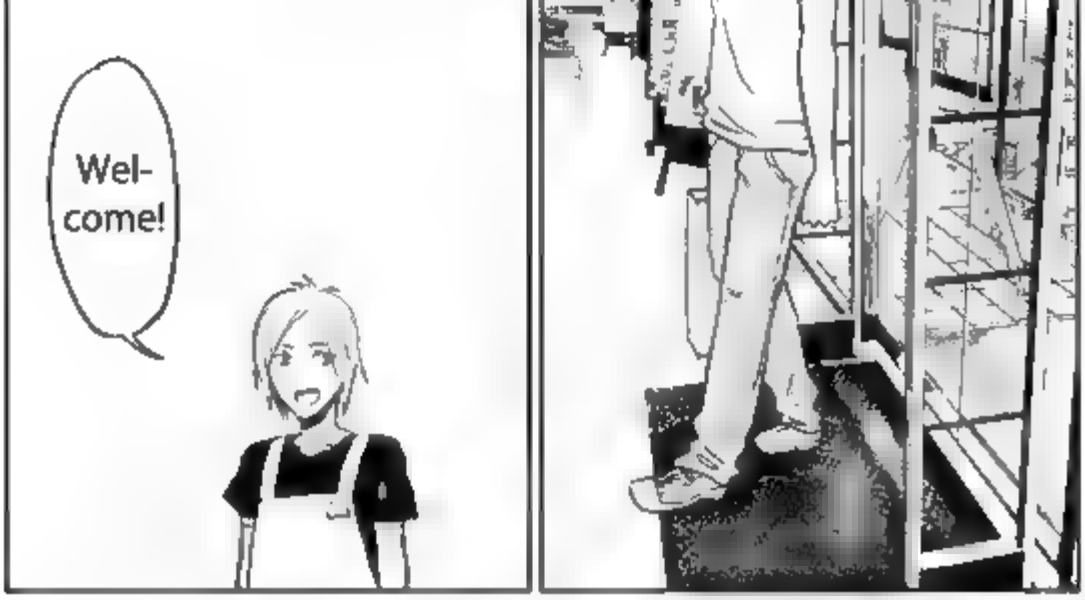
Here.


Because, I mean...
wouldn't that just be too good to be true?
A shop dealing in lifespan...
It could only be the fantasy of an old man nearing his death.

...
ゴクリ
gulp

Coca-Cola

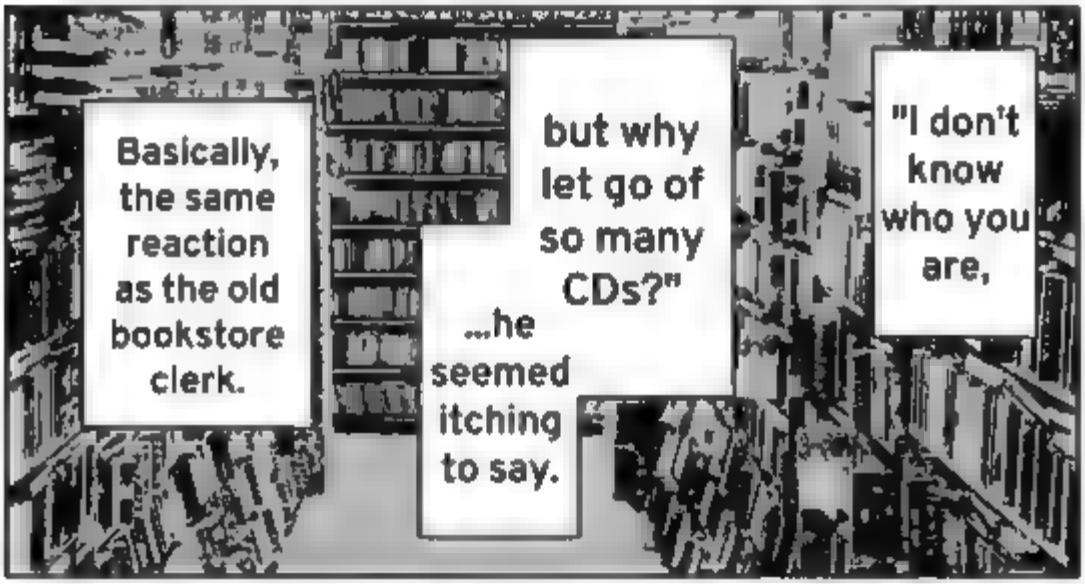
CD
CD
P
DVD


Wel-
come!

These...

...

What kinda turn of events is this?
...


Basically, the same reaction as the old bookstore clerk.
but why let go of so many CDs?"
...he seemed itching to say.
"I don't know who you are,

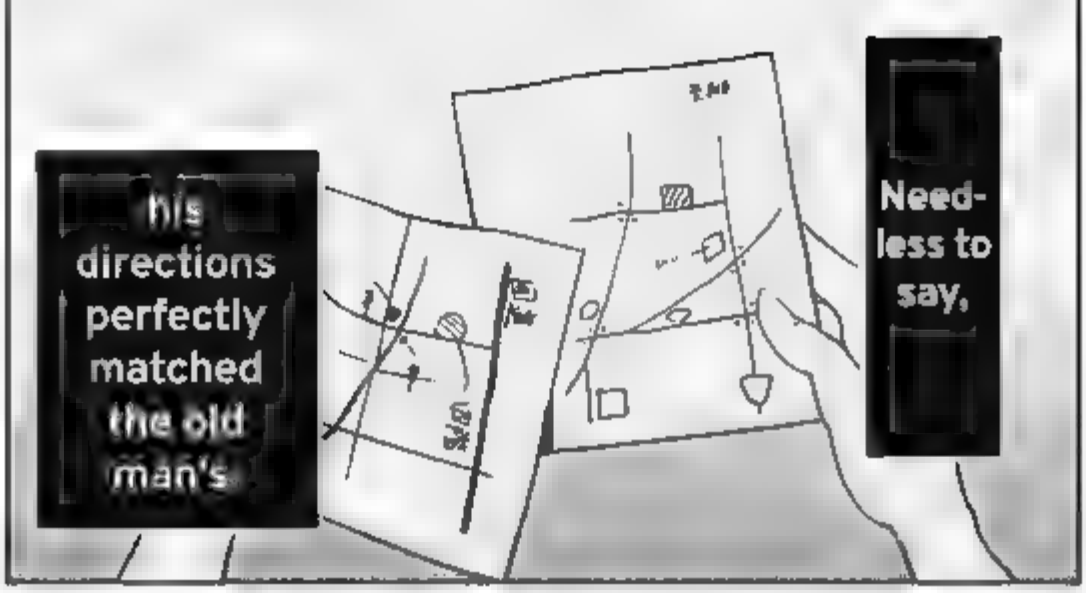
I explained why I had no choice but to sell them.
Just like before,

I'm pretty into your taste in music.
See,
truth is, bud,
In that case...
I've got somethin' good for you.
But just between us, a'ight?
So, maybe I shouldn't really be tellin' you...
there's a shop where they'll buy your lifespan!
Here in town,

It was more or less just what the old man said,
but it seemed this man had in fact sold some lifespan.

Was it in vogue to make fun of poor people?
So, uh...
How much did it go for?

Here ya go.
Can't really tell you that.

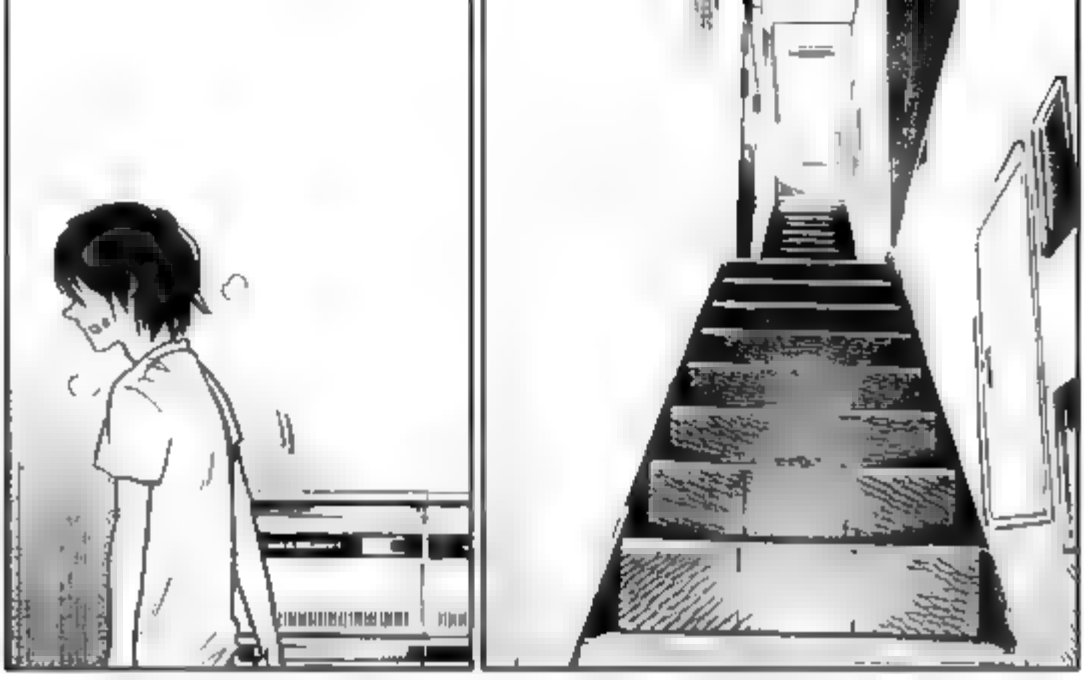

his directions perfectly matched the old man's
Needless to say,

ガコン
clunk

It's cold.
プシッ
psh
BIGたっぷり
+150ml
Might as well today

clatter
ガシャン
ゴク
glug
ゴク
glug
Tch.
くしゃ
crush

In the end,
I found myself standing in front of that building.



Circumstances kept them from saying it directly,

but there was some lucrative job offered there

that was "at the risk of shortening your lifespan."

401
And that's what they really wanted to share with me.
click

Wel-
come.

Your time?
Your health?
Or your lifespan?
...Life-span.

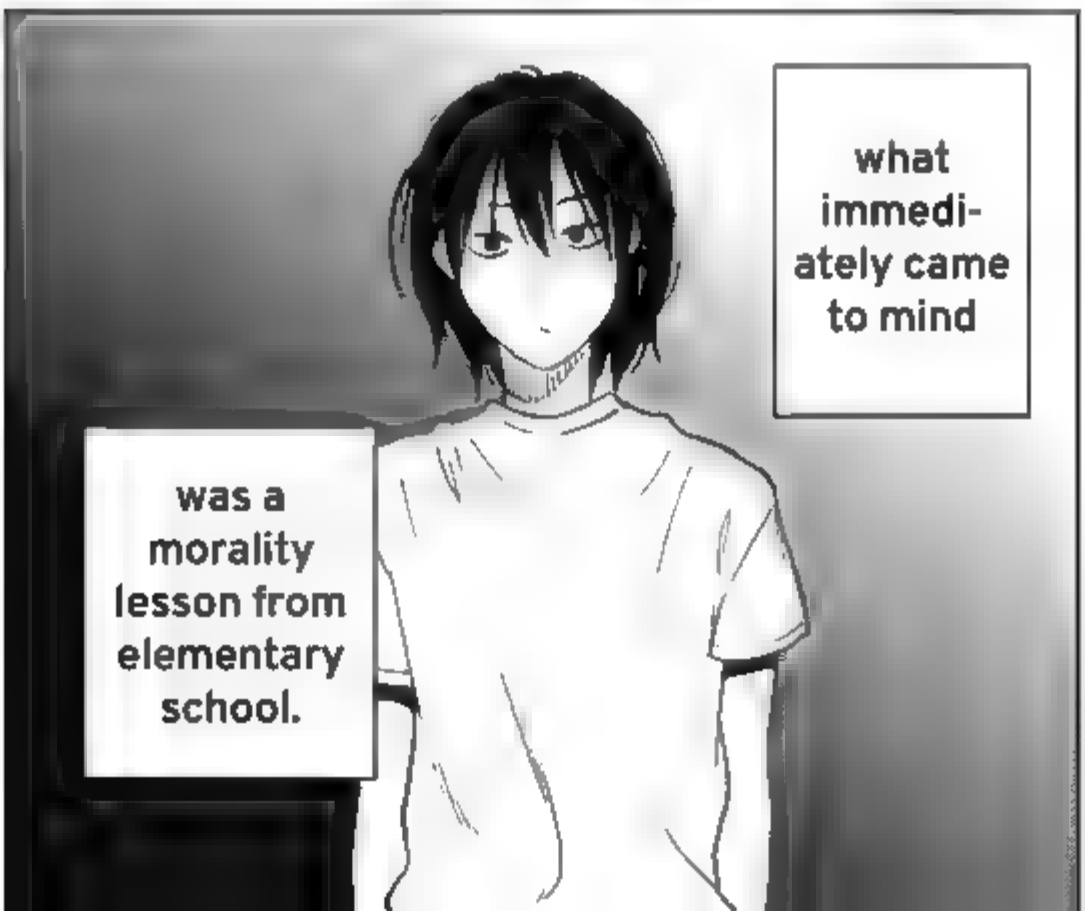
第2話
Chapter 2

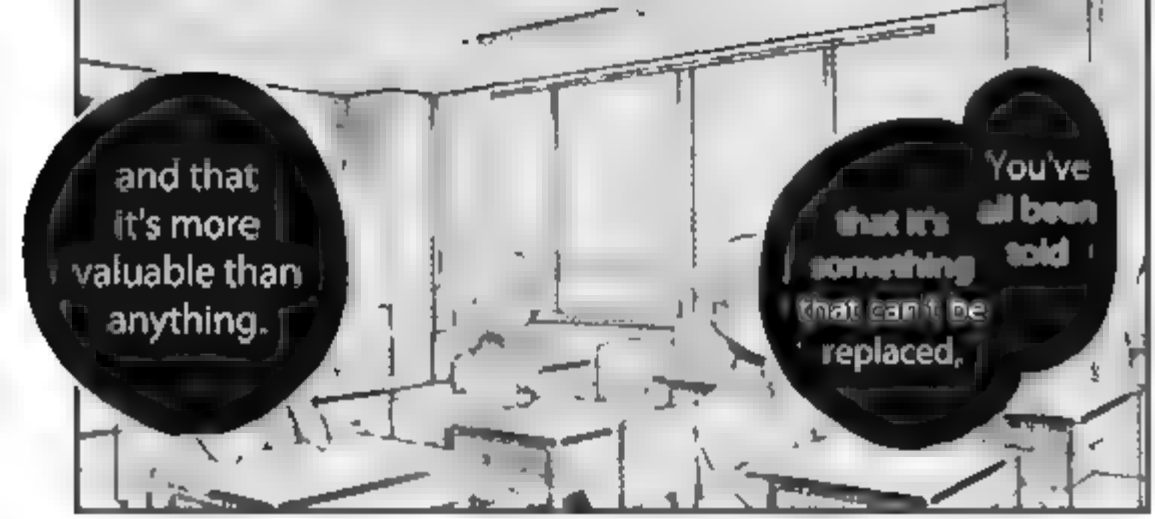
I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

Original: Sugaru Miaki **Manga:** Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

原作：三秋縋　漫画：田口囁
（メディアワークス文庫「三日間の幸福」）
キャラクター・デザイン：E9L・田口囁

When they first mentioned "selling lifespan,"
click clack 카카 카카
Your evaluation
will take about three hours.

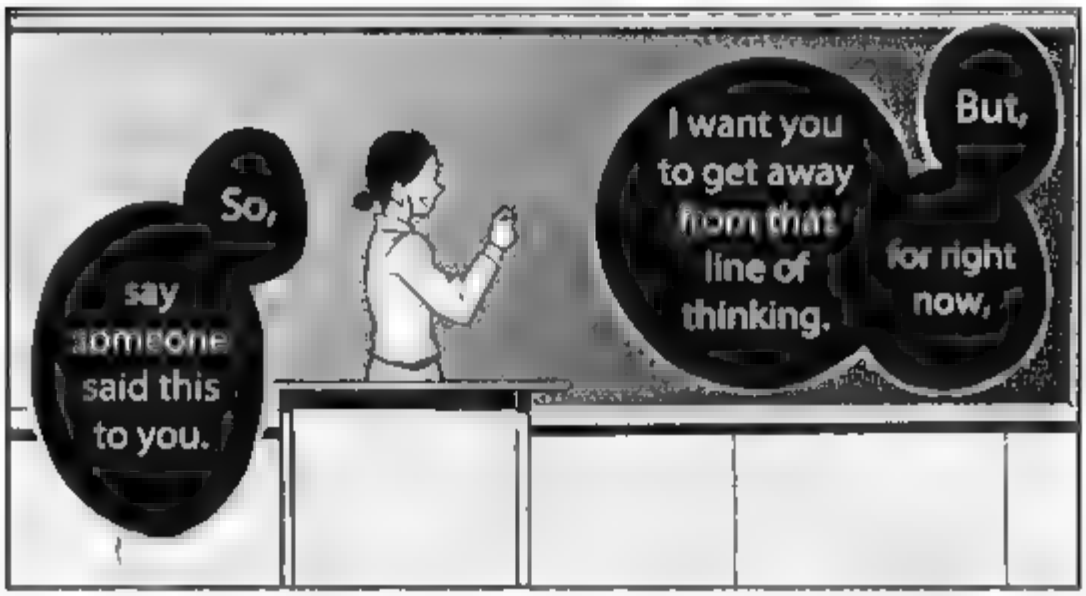

was a morality lesson from elementary school.
what immedi-ately came to mind


You've all been told that it's something that can't be replaced,
and that it's more valuable than anything.

But if a human life were given a monetary value,
how much do you think it would be worth?

A salaryman, over the course of their life,
earns about 100 million to 300 million yen.
That's what I read in a book once.
The class's biggest smart-aleck answered,
I know.

you might get that same answer.
Even if you asked an adult,
well...


So,
say someone said this to you.
I want you to get away from that line of thinking.
But,
for right now,

Would ya let me
have it all for myself?"
"Hey.
That life you're gonna lead...

You'd die surely.
And what would happen if I did sell it?
you'd want to refuse this offer.
So of course,
off the sixty you have left?"
Wanna just sell me thirty years
"Well, just half is fine."
But it would keep hanging on.
If it went down like that, I really might feel like selling.
I get it.

Now,
here's the question.
It would have to assign
a per-year value to your lifespan, yes?

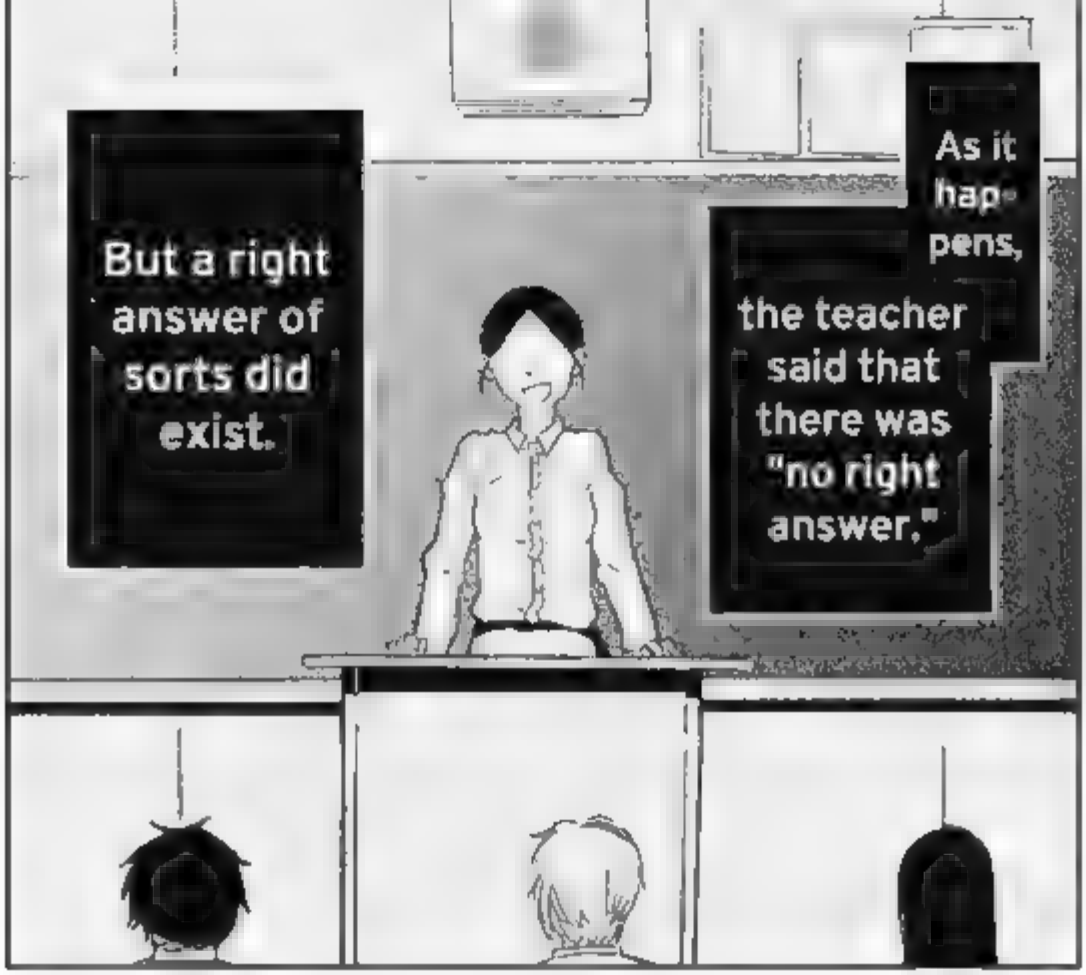
I'll tell you in advance,
there's no right answer.
But I want to know how you came to your answer.
murmur
ざわ
murmur
ざわ

Well, if a whole life is about 300 million yen...
If they're 300 million...
I could be at least 3 billion

...said one girl with gloomy prospects.
You can't assign a value to a person's life!

I'd probably ask for a disposal fee.
Heck,
yeah, I wouldn't give that a value.
If we're talking the chance to live *her* life,

thought similarly to me,
The wise-cracking clown you get in every class
and had a self-depre-cating laugh about it.
you guys wouldn't even pay 300 yen, would you?
But if I were selling my life,
Ha-ha-ha!

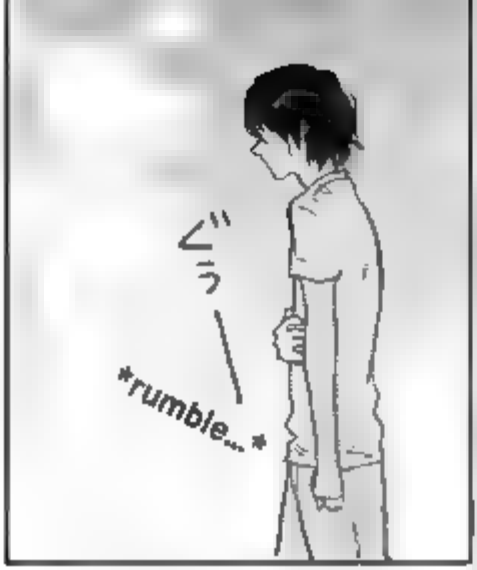


Ten years later,

when I was twenty,

I did in fact sell my lifespan

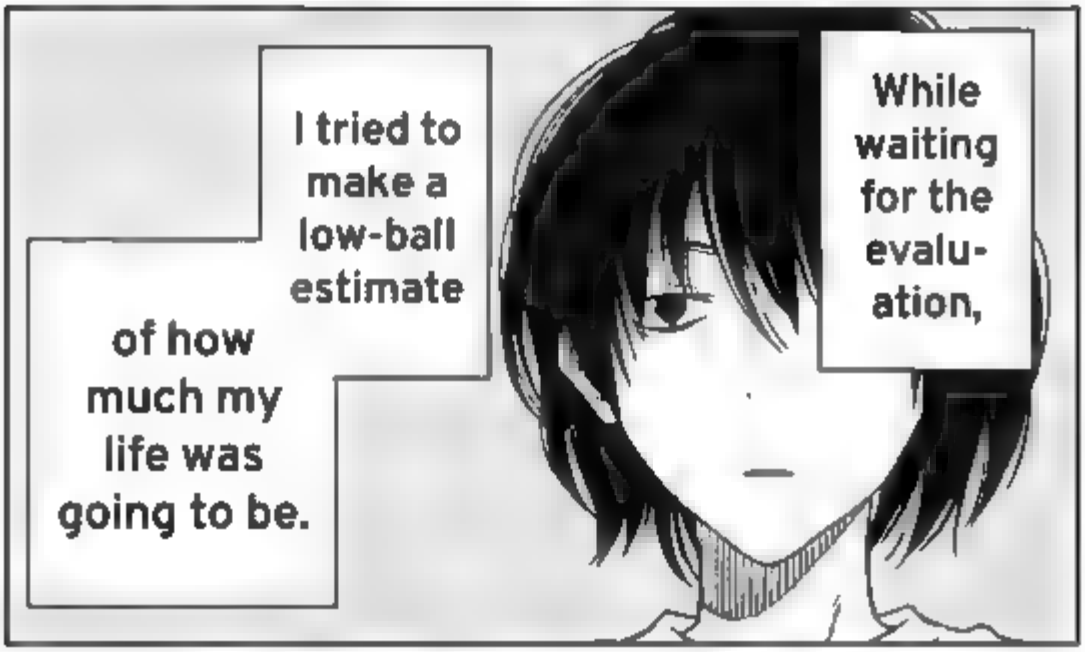
and learn its value.

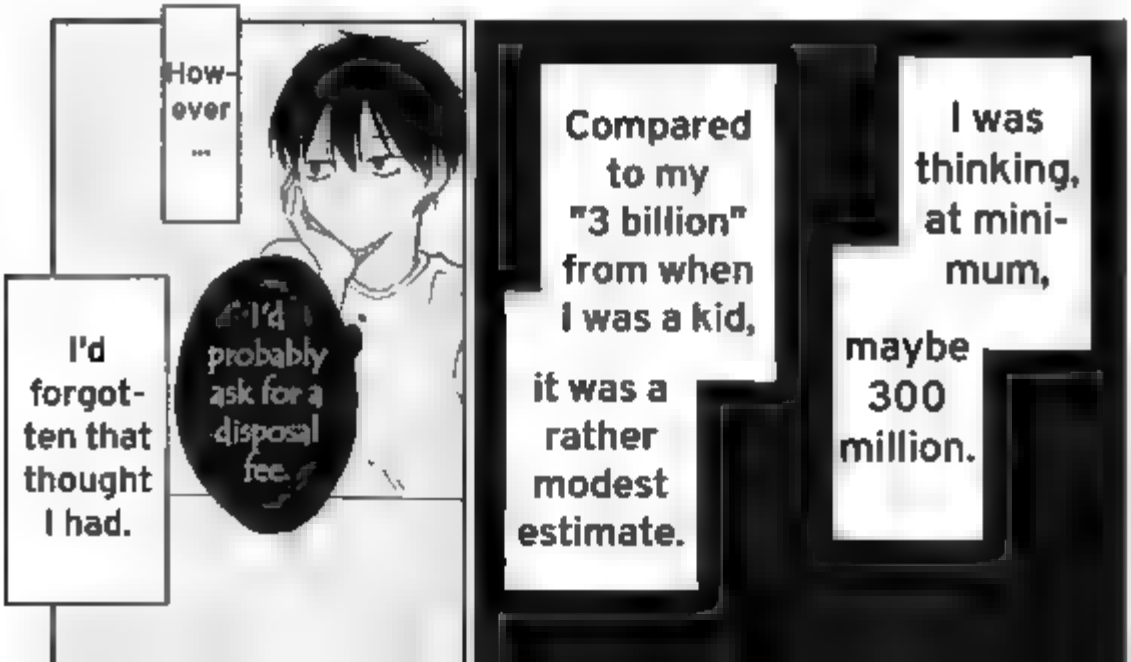

ぐぅ～
rumble...

...

KIRIN

I hope it sells for a lot...


I tried to make a low-ball estimate of how much my life was going to be.
While waiting for the evaluation,


I'd forgotten that thought I had.
However...
I'd probably ask for a disposal fee.
Compared to my "3 billion" from when I was a kid, it was a rather modest estimate.
I was thinking, at minimum, maybe 300 million.

Your evaluation has been completed.
Mr. Kusunoki.
I didn't recall ever giving them my name,
or any form of identi-fication.
"Mr. Kusu-noki."
I guess that fol-lows,
since the business here goes beyond common sense.
And yet,
they knew it, some way or another.

...
3...

...

3 billion ...!!
My childhood estimate
was right on...!

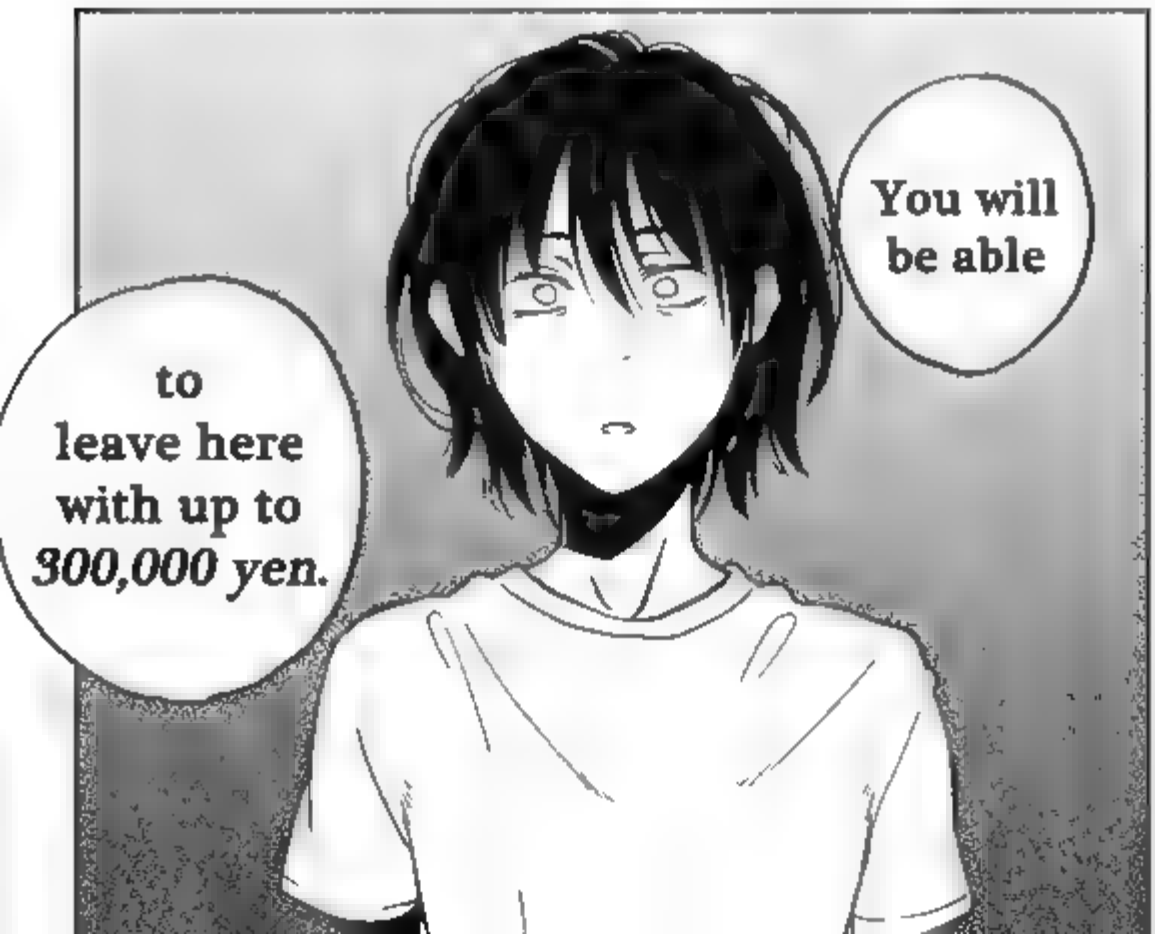
clack
clack
...
zrrrrr
These are your results...
Estimate
Mr._Kusunoki
Estimated Value ￥300,000
What would you like to do?

300,000... per year...
If I lived for eighty more years,
that would be 24 million in all.
24 million
24 million
Surely that's too cheap by any means?
sigh...

...?

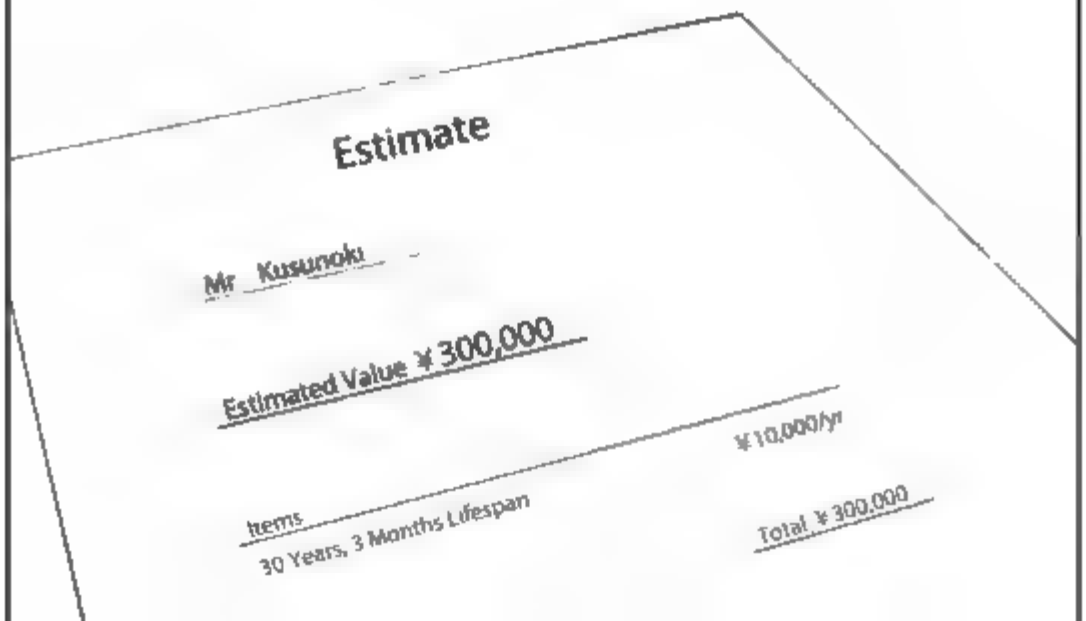
...
Concerning your per-year value...
I guess I'll just have to take 24 million...
...

You were given the bare minimum of *10,000 yen.*
And as you have thirty years and three months remaining...


You will be able
to leave here with up to *300,000 yen.*

There on the form
were my results,

many orders of magnitude
below my expectations.



about your standards.
...I want to know more

Happiness,
actualization,
contribution.
The detailed evaluations are carried out by a separate consulting body,
so I don't know the specifics myself.
Sigh..

The degree to which such factors are present
can greatly affect the value.
Or so I hear.

How happy a life it is,
how it makes others happy,
In short,
the value of your remaining years is..
so on and so forth..
These things decide the value.
won't make anyone happy,
how much it contributes to society,
If I won't be happy,
how many dreams are achieved,
won't achieve any dreams,
won't contribute to society...
Where can I look to for salvation...?

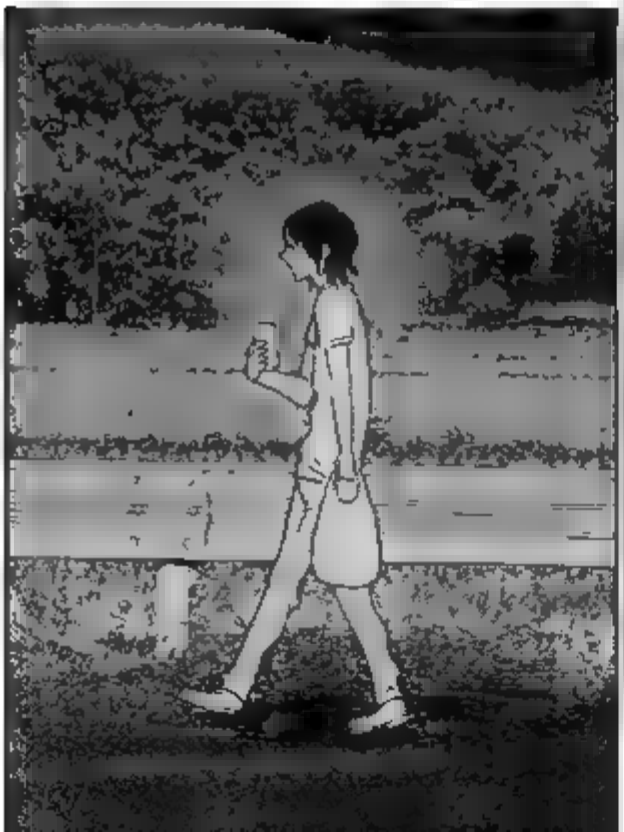
Ulti-
mately,

I sold off
all thirty
years,

keeping
only three
months.

…

グビ



When I was a kid,

I thought I'd grow up to be famous.

I looked down on the children around me.

I always got perfect scores on tests,
but I wasn't the only one who could do that.
Yes,
so could that "smart-aleck,"
Hime-no.
Because of the other, neither of us could be number one.
So at least on the surface, we quarreled.

who could talk to each other on our same level.

we were the only ones

On the other hand,

so we'd played together since infancy.

and our parents were friends,

our houses were very close,

And in fact,

I suppose the term "childhood friends" would apply.

Well, in that case...
And...
たこ焼
ゆま

When we turn twenty, and get famous...
that brought us to this.

we haven't found anyone we want to marry...
if this hap- pens...
if by then,
shameful as it is,

ピーンポーン
ding dong

Dam-mit Drank too much

And you would be...?
...

That's cor-rect.
You.. evalu-ated my lifespan yesterday?
I'll serve as your observer from today forth.
My name is Miyagi.

since your lifespan is now less than a year,
While I also explained it yesterday,
I will be observing you starting today.
urk
Can this wait until later?
And so...
There-fore...
The last three months of my life began
thump
thump
*thuuuuurk_*
Under-stood.
Later, then.
in pretty much the worst possible way.

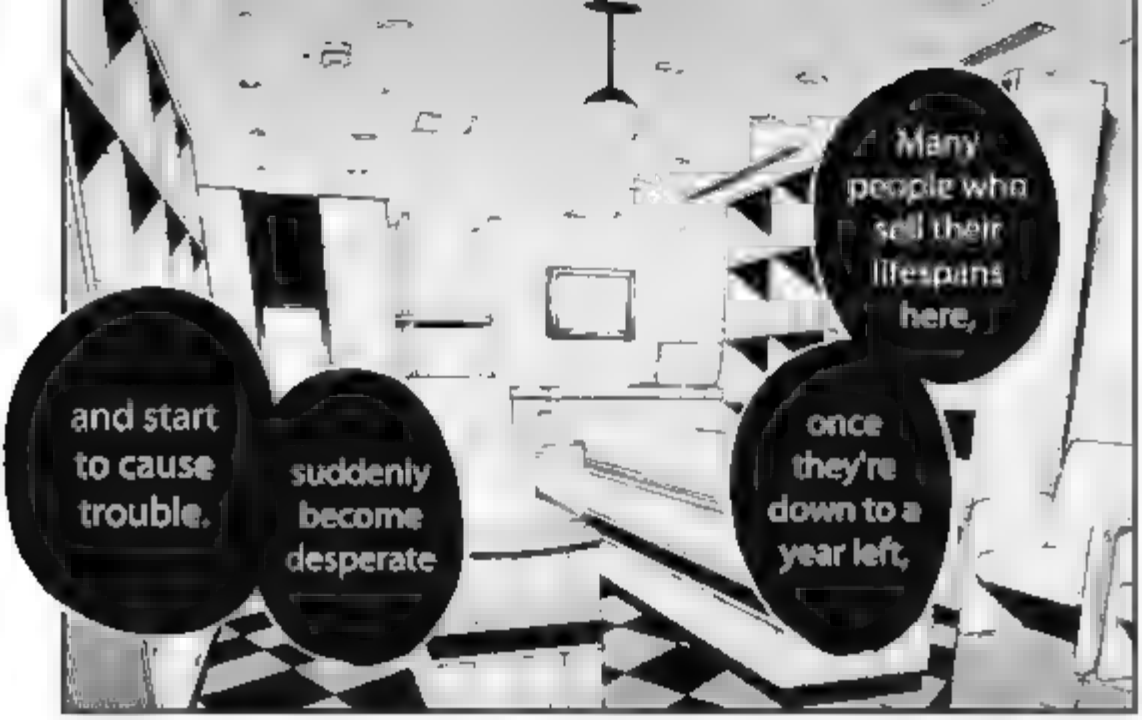
寿命を買い取ってもらった。二年につき、二万円で。

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

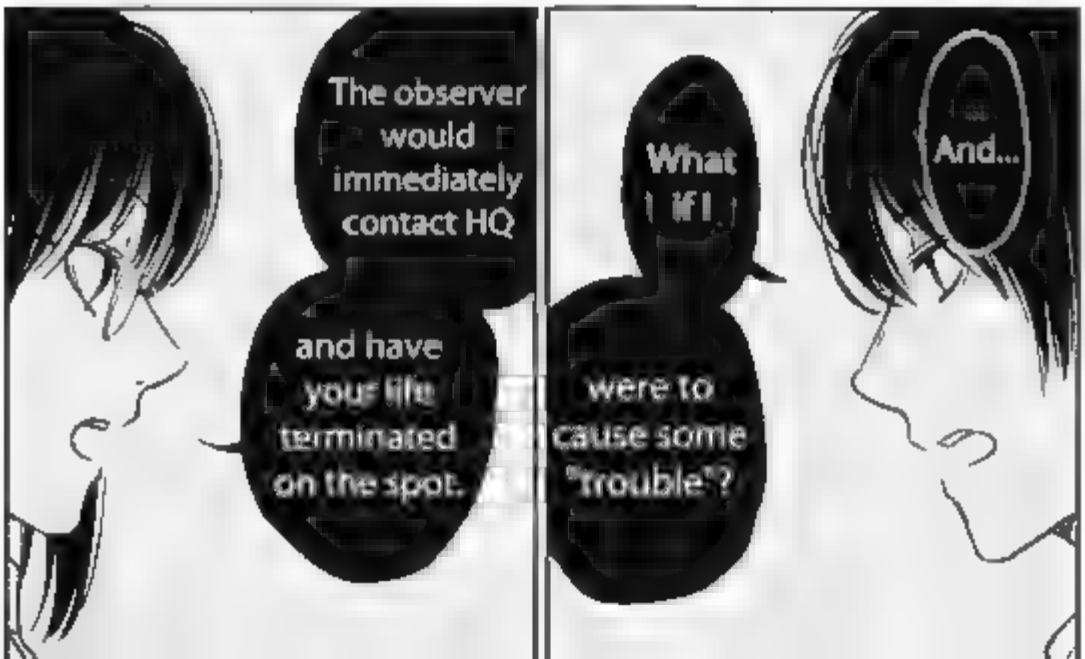
Chapter 3

Original: Sugaru Miaki Manga: Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

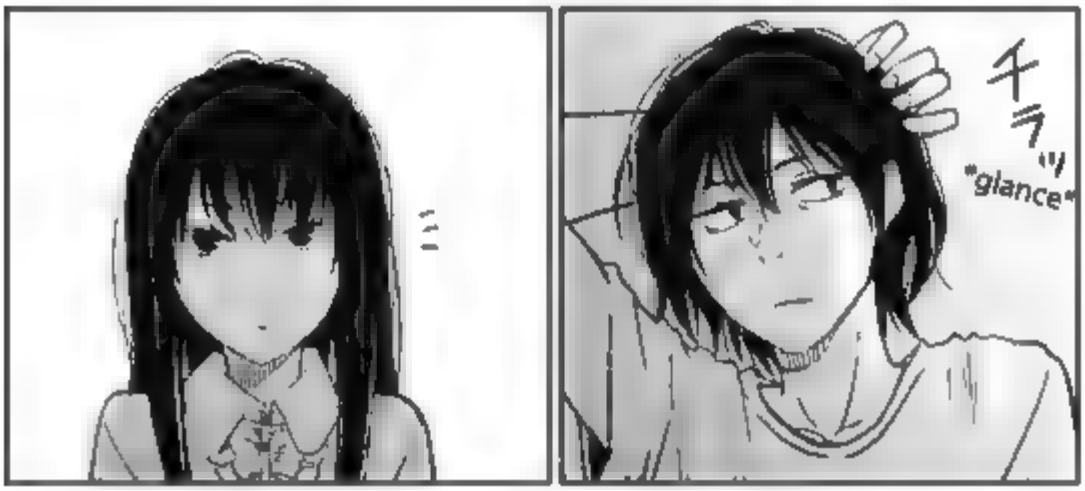
I sold off all but three months of my life.
Then, the next day,
a girl came to my room.


Many people who sell their lifespans here,
once they're down to a year left,
suddenly become desperate
and start to cause trouble.

To protect against such situations,
we have established what is called...
the "observer" system.


And...
What if I
were to cause some "trouble"?
The observer would immediately contact HQ
and have your life terminated on the spot.

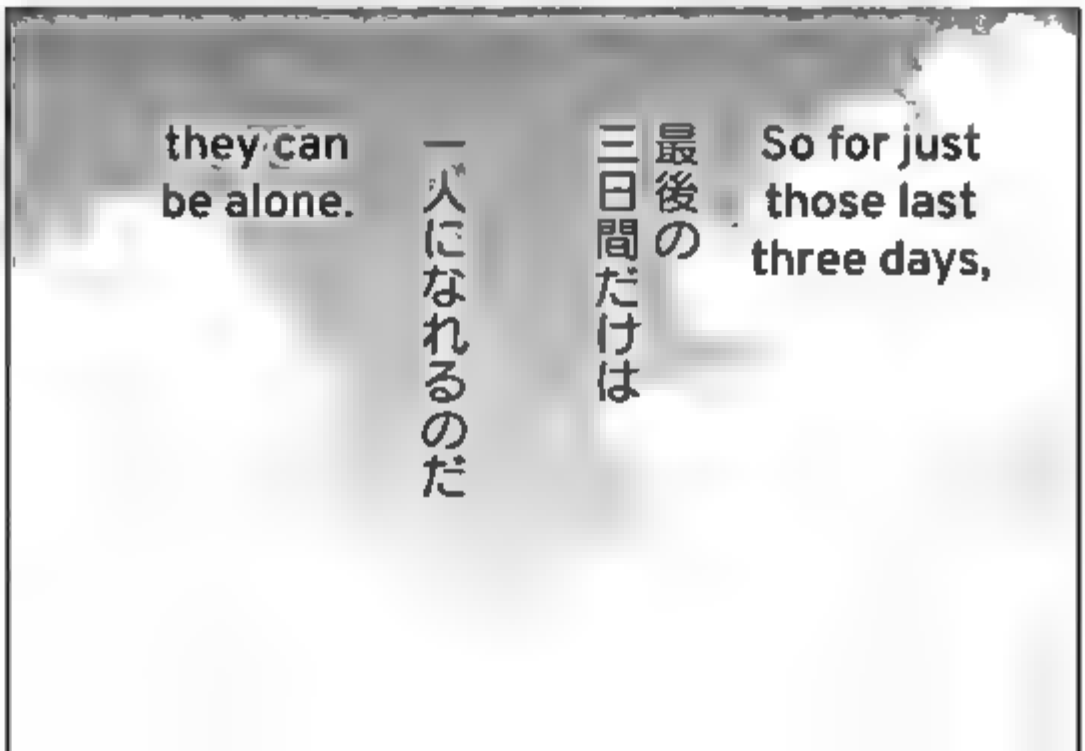
つまりこの女の子は
電話一本で俺の命を奪えるということだ
Which meant this "observer" was one phone call away from ending my life.

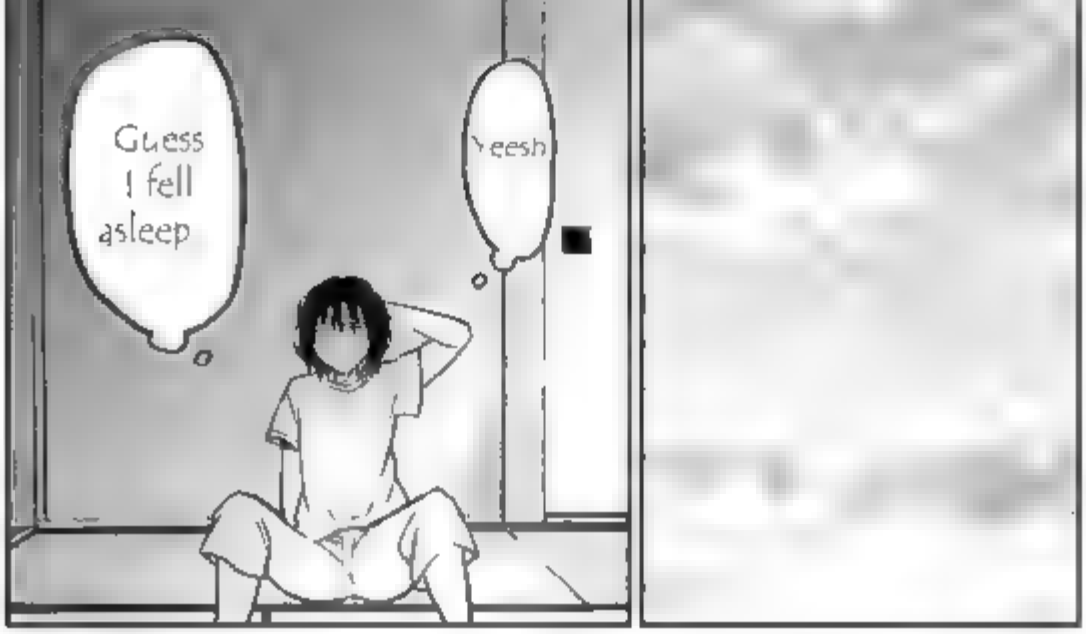

チラ
"glance"

As if I can do that!!
conduct yourself as you usually would.
Sim-ply...
It's perfectly fine if you just pretend I'm not here.

I explained this yesterday as well,
but for your last three days,
I will cease my observation.
Please endure until then.

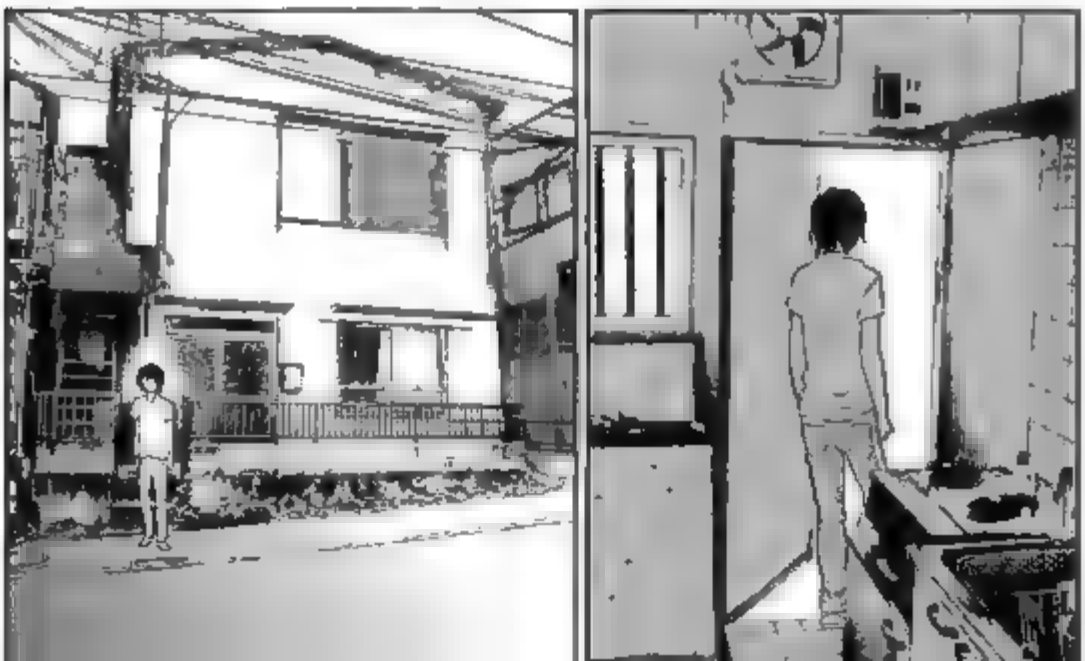
When people only have a few days left,
maybe due to resignation,
they apparently lose the will to trouble others.

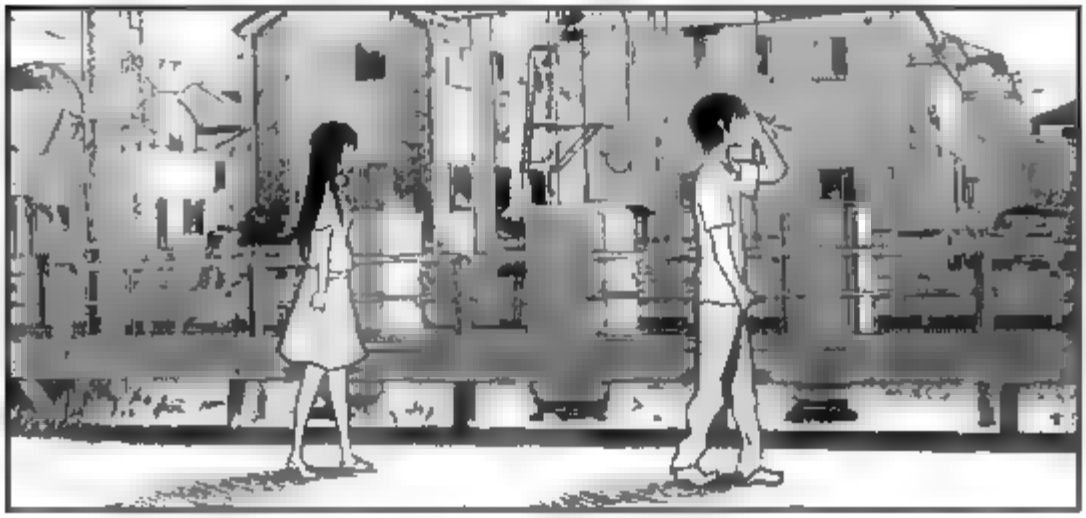

So for just those last three days,
最後の三日間だけは
一人になれるのだ
they can be alone.


Guess I fell asleep
Yeesh

...
I'd call this a pretty awful way to spend the first day of these precious three months.
Gah
This late...?
7:13

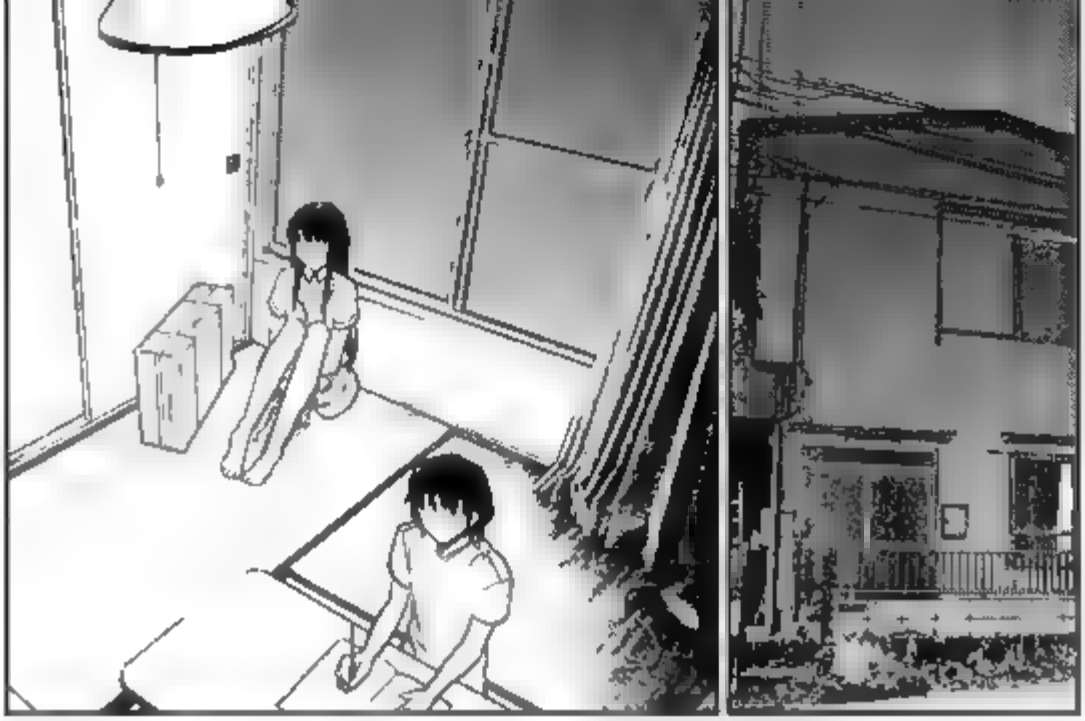
Don't mind her, don't mind her

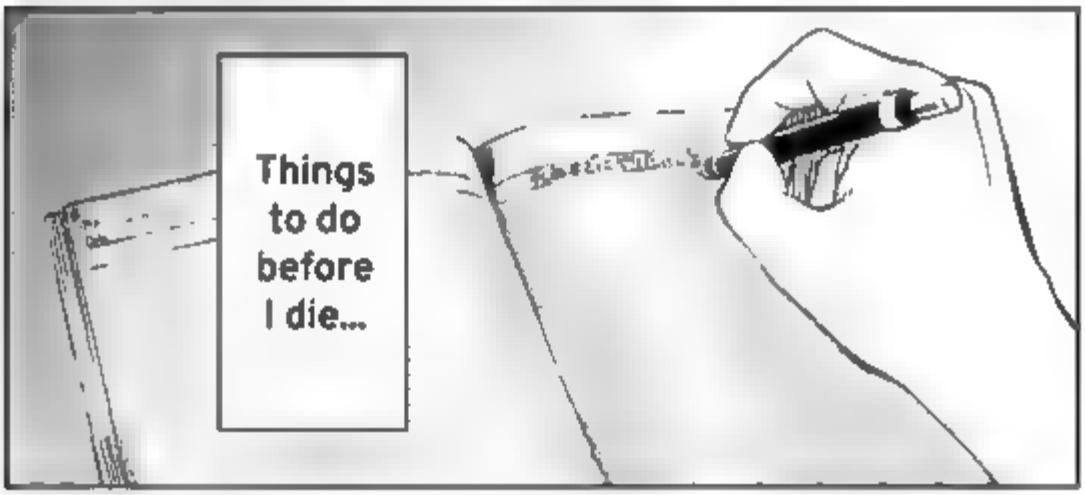


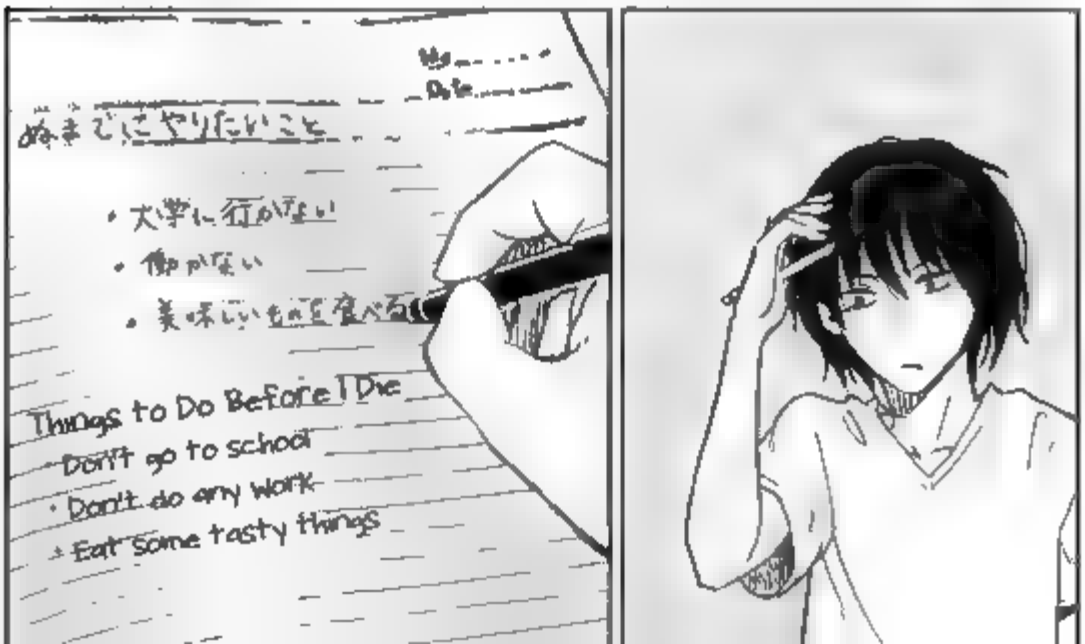


how did she intend to have meals?
With her watching me,

I didn't *really* think she had no need to eat or drink,
but she felt so inhuman that I would've believed it.

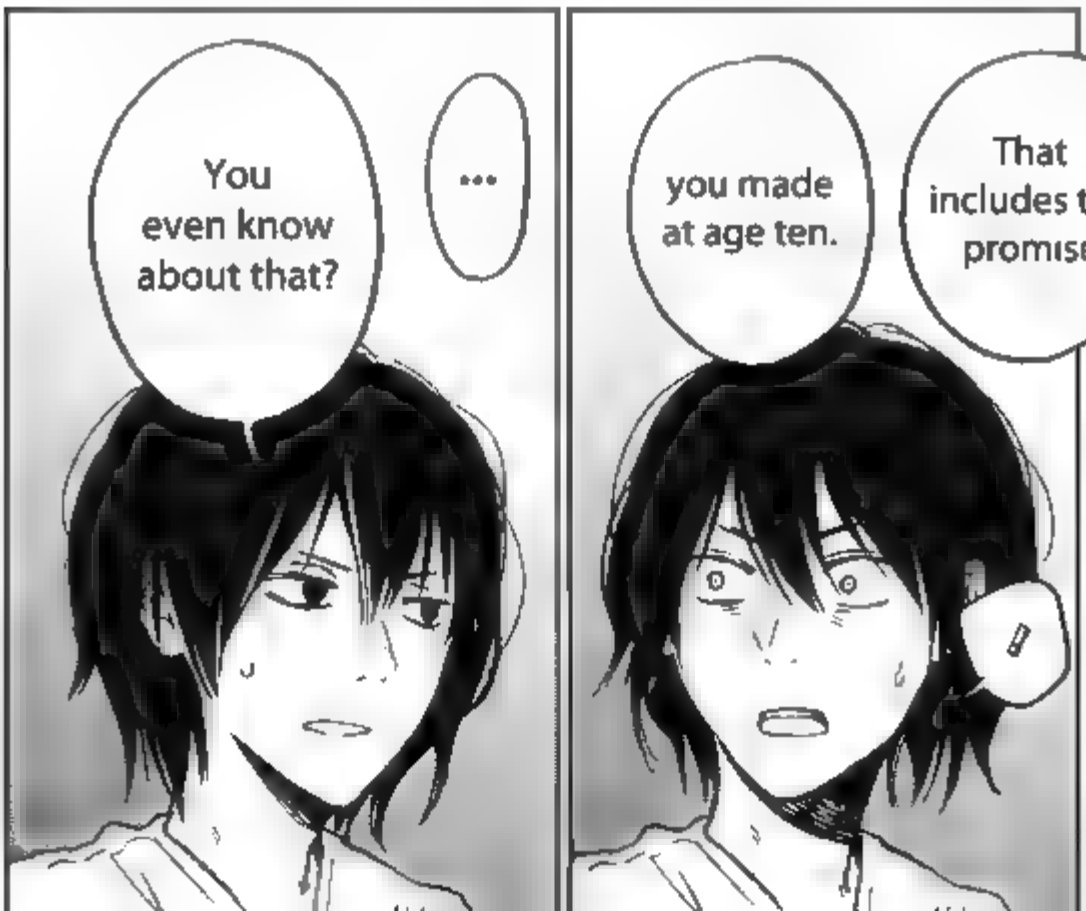



Things to do before I die...


Things to Do Before I Die
• Don't go to school
• Don't do any work
• Eat some tasty things

Tell Himeno how I feel.
Meet and talk with Naruse...
See some beautiful things...
Write a will...
スッ
I would
suggest against that one.
• Don't go to school
• Don't do any work
• Eat some tasty things
• See some beautiful things
• Write a Will
• Meet and talk with Naruse
• Tell Himeno how I feel

..Ms. Hime-no...
And of course...
scarcely remembers you at all.
Tell me, do you observers...
have some duty to probe and meddle?
Even into this kind of thing?

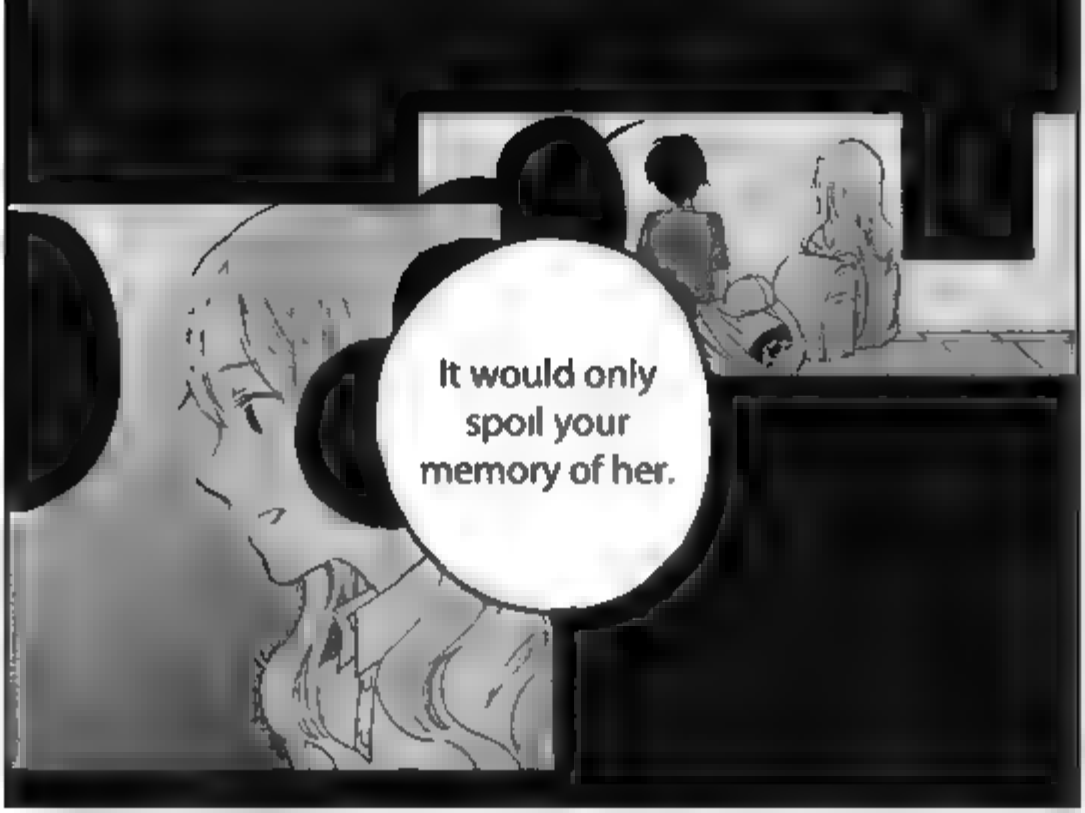

You even know about that?
...
you made at age ten.
That includes the promise
!

know everything that's going to happen?
Given the way you're talking, do you...
of what may have happened in your future life.
Mr. Kusunoki, all I know
are the *possi-bilities*
...No.
when you sold your lifespan.
As your future changed drastically
Of course, it's all meaningless information at this point.

Your life's "summary"
was filled to the brim with her.
Ms. Himeno seemed to be
a very significant person in your life.

Is that what that means?
So everything else was too unimportant?

meeting Ms. Himeno would be a waste of time.
At any rate,
if you want my opinion,
That may be.


It would only spoil your memory of her.

Thanks for the concern, but
It was spoiled a long time ago.

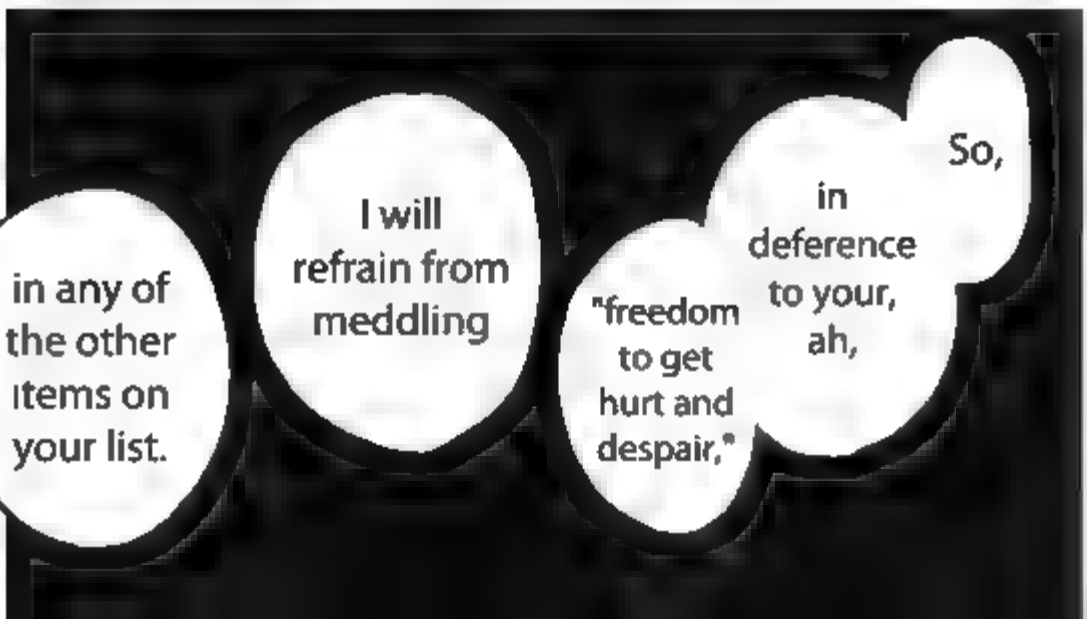
Look, maybe you're telling me this 'cause you're trying to protect me from getting hurt.
But...

my "freedom to get hurt and despair"?
Couldn't you say that such an action is taking away

That was pretty meddling of you.
but directly from Himeno's mouth?
What if I didn't want to hear it from you,
Yeah... Like...

Well, I had only good intentions.
Is that so.
sigh.

I must apologize.


So,
in deference to your, ah,
"freedom to get hurt and despair,"
I will refrain from meddling
in any of the other items on your list.

I will not stop you.
simply pursue what you want.
Do as you please.
So long as it does not trouble others,

That's what I was gonna do anyway

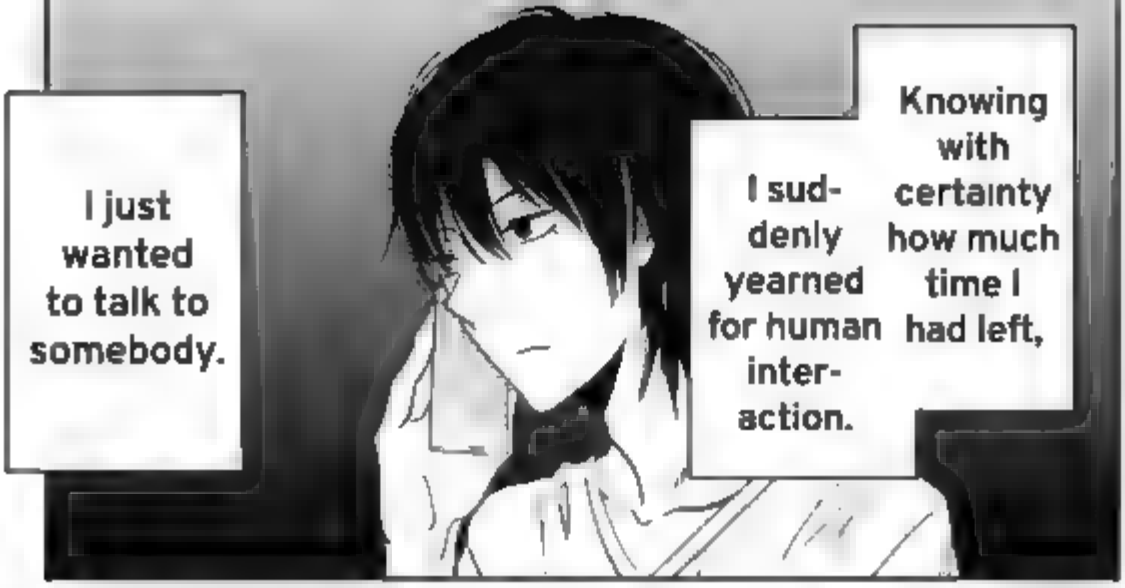
I didn't overlook the fact
that Miyagi seemed to have
a some-what somber look then.

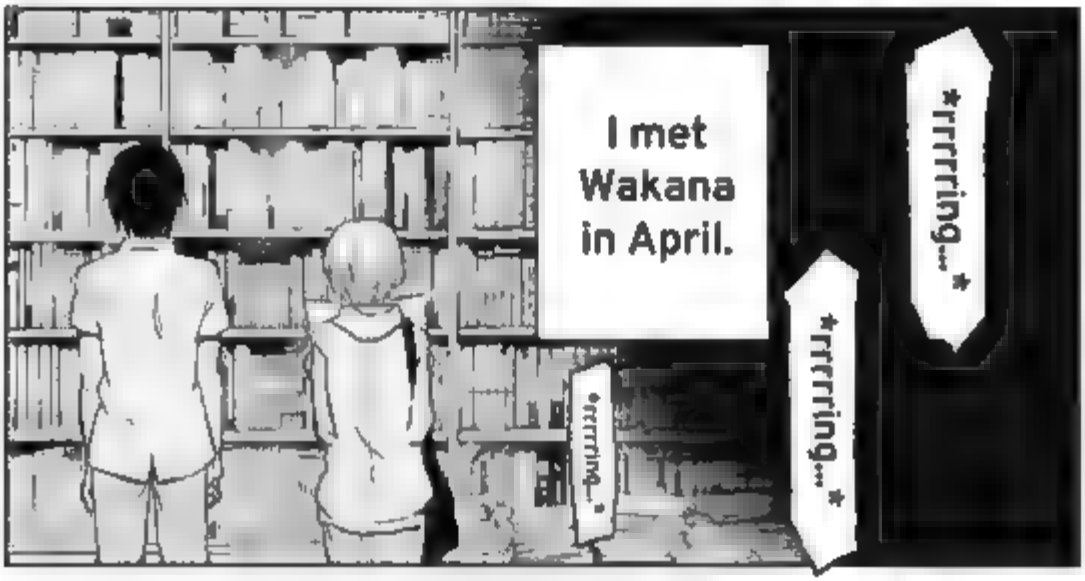
How-ever,
I didn't give any deep thought
into what that expression meant.

Here, my buffoonery really picked up the pace.
Just making a call.
I'll be right back.

But she still follows, of course

...
Recipient
Wakana
090-XXXXXXXX


I just wanted to talk to somebody.
I suddenly yearned for human interaction.
Knowing with certainty how much time I had left,


I met Wakana in April.
rrrrring...
rrrrring...
rrrrring...

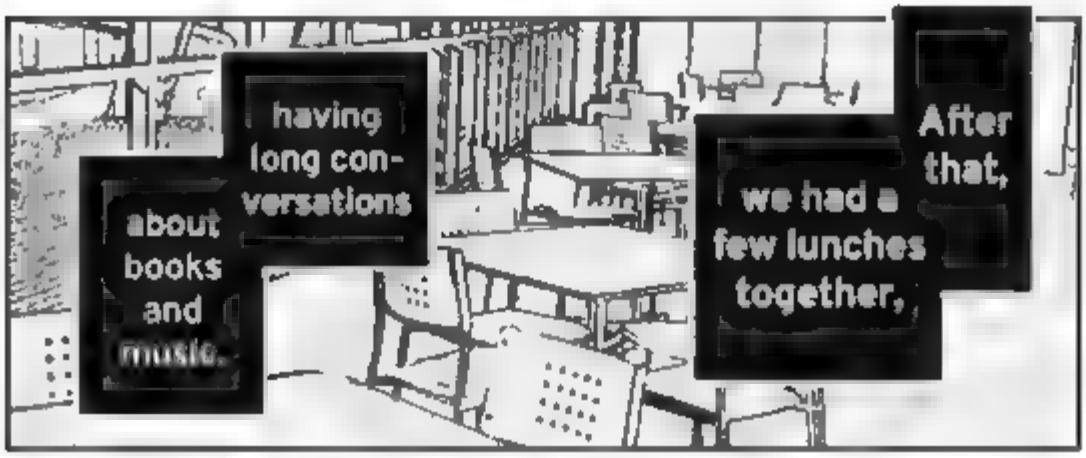
glance
Ugh.
Move it, lady.
I want to check that shelf...

Um...
Ex-
cuse
me,
have
we met
before?

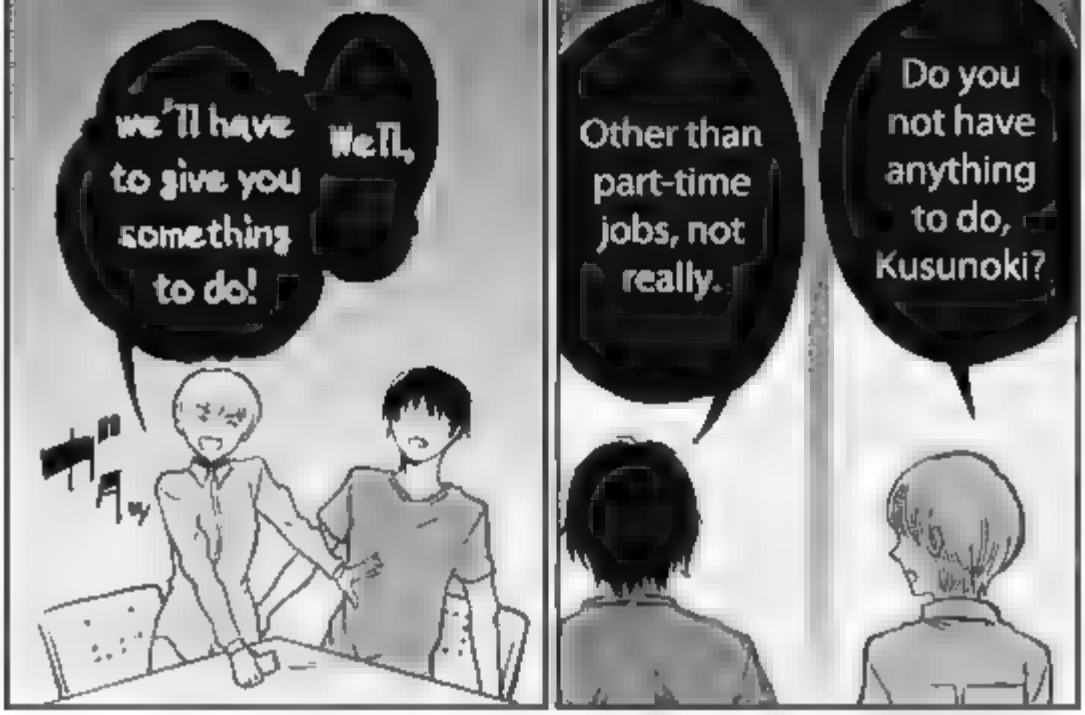
...
O-
Oh?
Sorry
to bo-
ther
you!
No.
Never
seen you
until now.
You
looked
like
some-
one...

...
I think
you're right
about that.
So,
essent-
ially,
we met
in this
old book-
store?

A few days later, we met again at college.
I think I'm right about that, too.
That's great!


having long conversations
about books and music.
After that,
we had a few lunches together,

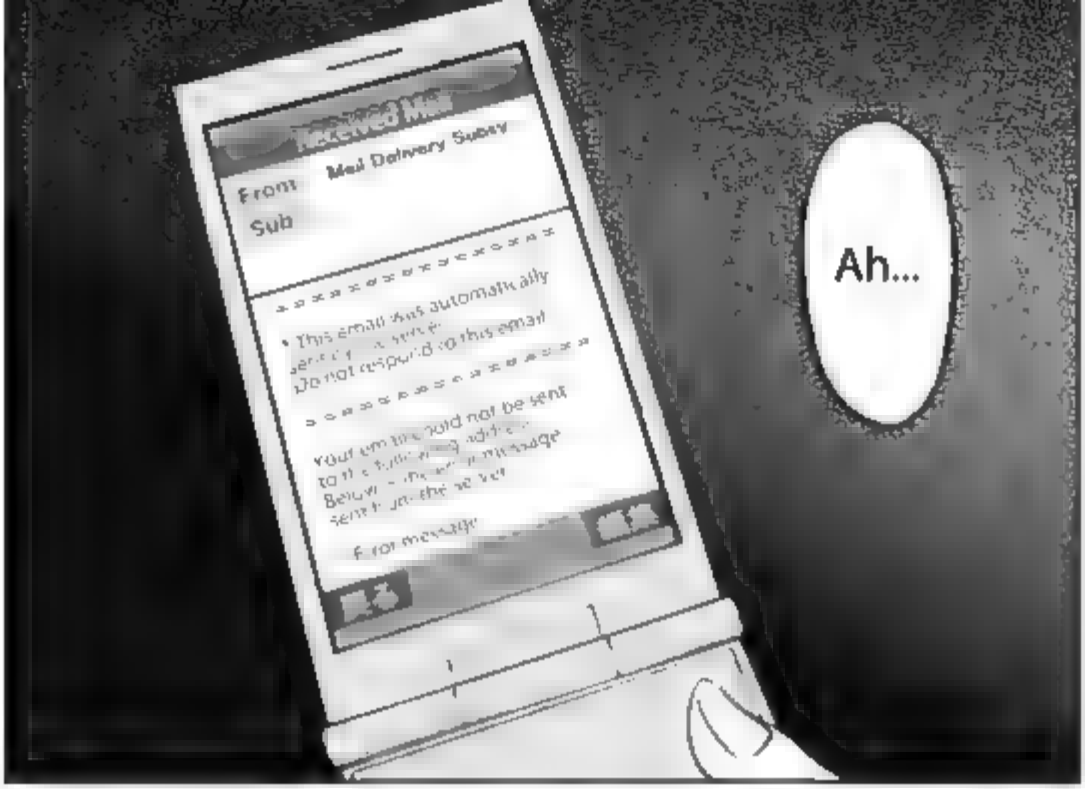
Reading is what people without anything else to do do.
I'm not sure, but that's where it ends.
Besides...
I've never met someone in my generation
who's read more than me before!


Well,
we'll have to give you something to do!
Other than part-time jobs, not really.
Do you not have anything to do, Kusunoki?

She was
the only girl in college to show any affection for me.

How-ever,
I valued my pro-mise with Himeno.
So to keep Wakana from getting hopeful,
I treated her with a blunt attitude.
There!

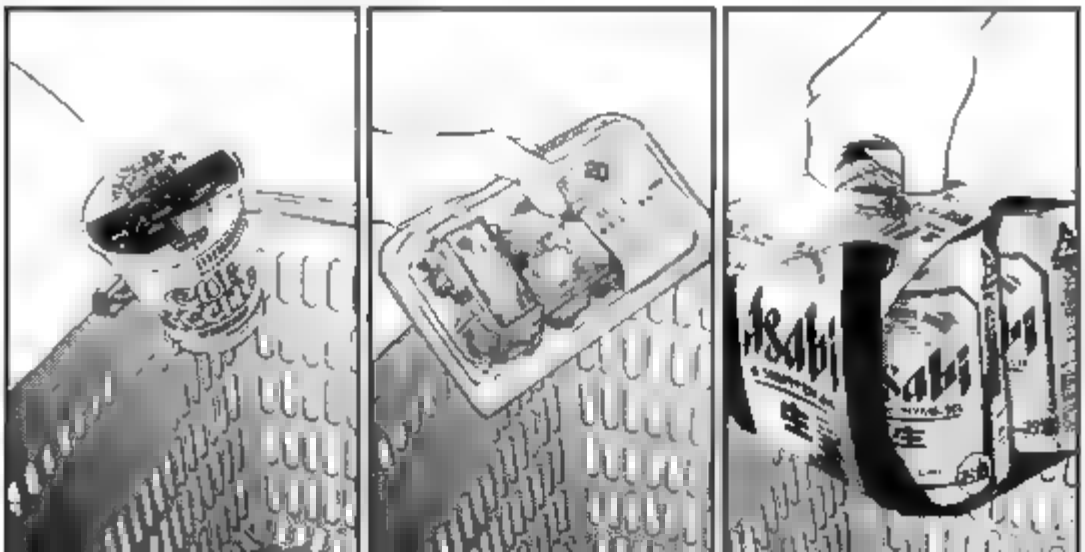
It seemed she wasn't able to answer right now.
There was a part of me that was relieved by that.
Sigh.
shut
I chose my words carefully
and sent it.
To Wakana
Sub
Sorry this is so sudden, but do you want to go anywhere tomorrow?
bzzz


From Mail Delivery Subsy
Sub
Ah...

...

Now then...
Let's compare answers.
The woman you just tried to call
was, in your eyes, your last ray of hope.
Ms. Waka-na
was the last person who you thought
may have loved you.

I headed to a local super-market.
Once I was done,
so I stayed where I was and lit a cigarette.
I didn't feel like going back inside,
P



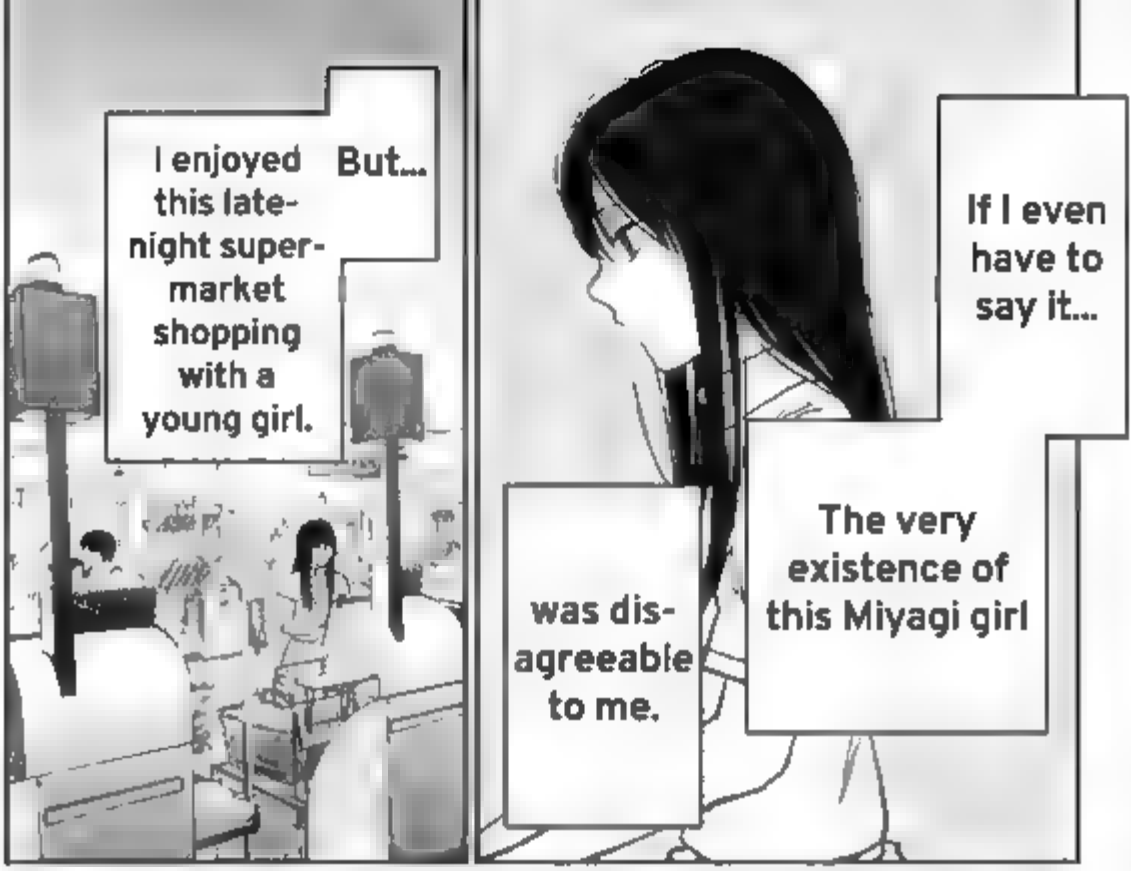
Man...
I have 300k in yen
but I dunno what's worth spending it on

So, she eats.
CalorieM
eMate

St.ll

We must look like

lovers who live together,
out on a shopping trip
It was a truly ridic-ulous -
but happy - halluci-nation.


If I even have to say it...
The very existence of this Miyagi girl
was dis-agreeable to me.
But...
I enjoyed this late-night super-market shopping with a young girl.

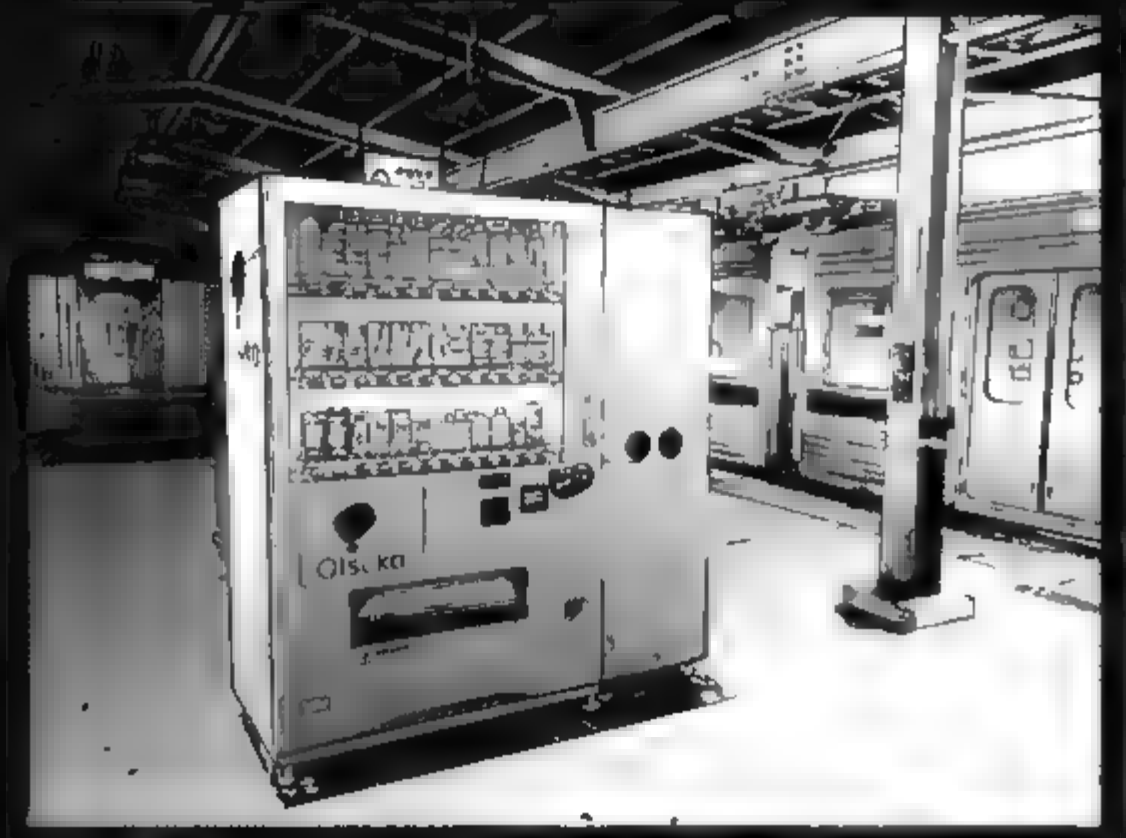
Even if
her goal was to observe me...

For a long time,
living with a girl
and us going shopping for food and beer while still in our loungewear
had been a secret desire of mine.

むなしい幸せ
An empty happiness.
でも本当にそう感じるのだから仕方ない
But I couldn't help that I really felt that way.

寿命を I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

買い取ってもらった。 二年につき、一万円で。



Chapter 4

Original: Sugaru Miaki Manga: Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

Kusunoki, with less than three months to live, and rejected by others...
これを切り
...
Hey.
Wanna drink with me?
No thank you.
I'm on duty.
Y'know, I've been wonder-ing ..
what're you writing there?
A record of actions.
Yours

Yes, I know.
This I have heard.
Not only that, but I'm really wanting to drink with you.
I'm drunk right now.
that
Well, allow me to inform you
Yes, I can see that.
nod

glug
slam
Lemme tell you .
With these last three months,
with my 300,000 yen, I'm gonna change something.

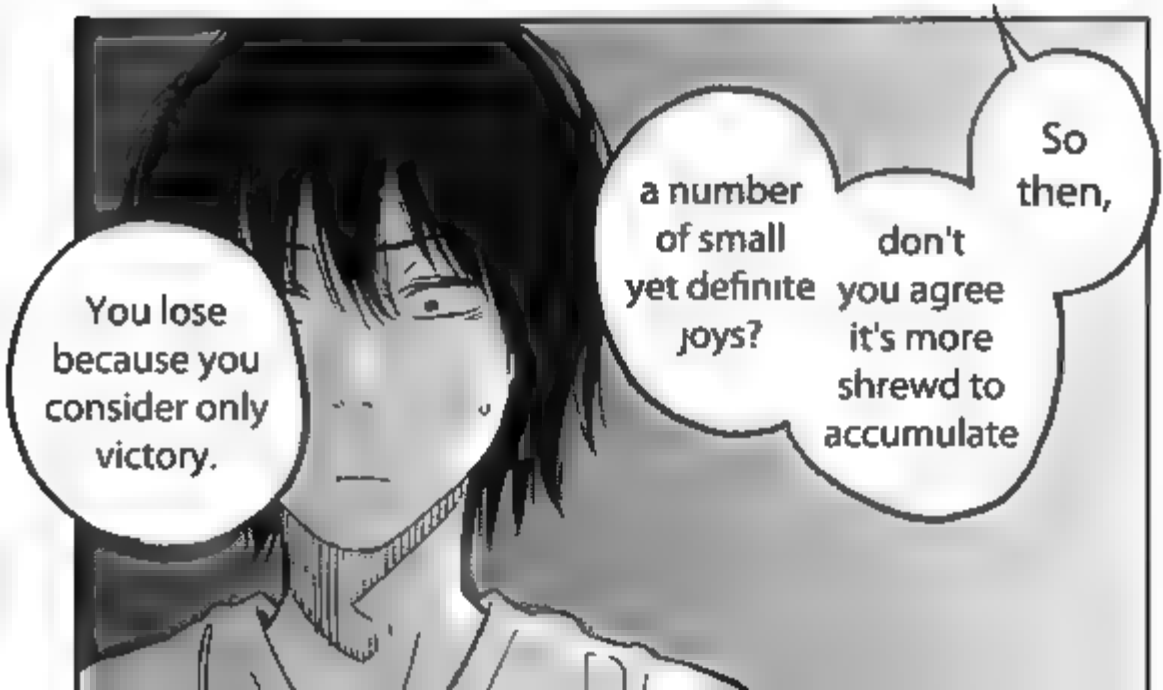
...
That is what everyone says.
I'm gonna get back at this world!
With my coming death driving me,

That is a critical mis-judgment.
you think you can do anything.
now that you've noticed your mis-takes,
Despite having been a rather hopeless person before,

was because in those 30 years,
you accom-plished not one single thing.
御見積
クスノキ＿＿様
御見積金額 300,000円
The reason your lifespan sold for only 300,000 yen
Mr. Kusu-noki,
think of it this way.

What can a man who would accomplish nothing in 30 years
change in a mere three months?
...
...Won't know
'til we try.

...Three months is simply too short a time to change anything.
That said, it's also too long to do nothing.

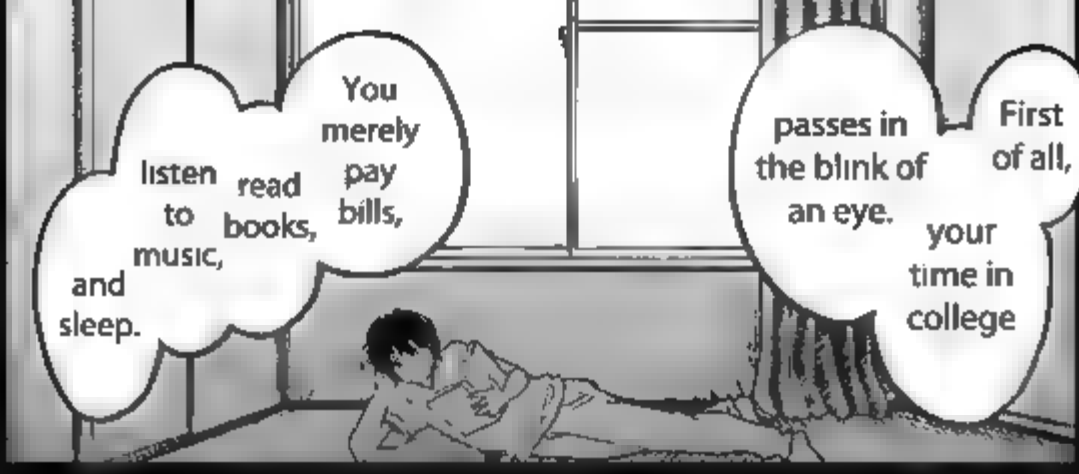

So then, don't you agree it's more shrewd to accumulate a number of small yet definite joys?
You lose because you consider only victory.

I guess even now..
I still can't fully under-stand just how useless I really am.
Alright, fine.
What you're saying is right.

All the things that would've happened.
So, hey. Could you tell me?

I could stop having any un-reasonable hopes.
Maybe if I heard that,
Just how did I spend those lost thirty years?

At this juncture,
I suppose
perhaps it is best that you know all of it.
...
they are things that can never actually happen.
The things I know were once possibilities, but now,
I know that.
you need not despair at anything I say.
...However, just as a reminder,
I hope it won't come at all
It'd only come to that if there were nothin' else to come to.
I should ever be despairing.
there's really no reason
And honestly,


First of all, your time in college passes in the blink of an eye.
You merely pay bills, read books, listen to music, and sleep.

You graduate having learned nothing in particular,
and ironically, you end up in the line of work you scorned most.

You travel between home and work, eyes ever-vacant, working your body into dust,
and drink comes to be the only thing you look forward to.

Before you know it, you're approaching your late thirties.
In loneliness, your only hobby is to ride a motorcycle around aimlessly.

But, as you yourself know, it is a dangerous hobby.

The one small mercy is that no one else is injured;

you are the only one in the collision.

In that accident, you lose half your face,

the ability to walk,

and the majority of your fingers.

You begin to consider going to your last resort, but...

"Even so, maybe something good will still happen."

Unable to let go of that sliver of hope,

you cannot take the final plunge

This false hope carries you to fifty,

until ultimately, you die alone, in shambles and with nothing.

Loved by no one,

remembered by no one.

To your last,

grieving that it should not have been this way.

Right, well
So, your thoughts?
...
First of all...

I'd say I'm really glad
I sold off all thirty years.

BANG
!
ドン
bang
Fire-works
ドン
ba-bang
スッ
whoo sh

bang
bang
パラ
pop-pop
ド
bang
...
bang

Hey now, should you just be staring out there, miss observer?
Seems that's piquing her interest a little.
bang

Do you *want* me to watch you?
What then?
What if I were to suddenly take off?

Havin' you over my shoulder makes it hard to do anything
Nuh-uh
I want you to be gone as soon as possible.

Heck, I think it might've been better if I'd sold off all but three days instead.
Well, there is still time for that.
You are allowed two more lifespan transactions.
If you truly can't stomach my presence,
then that is certainly an option.

Honestly, that seemed the more elegant way to do things.
I'll keep it in mind.
But even at this point,
I was trapped by that devil's proof, hoping for something good.
...

I couldn't go dying just yet.
Think-ing of it that way,
The future wasn't set in stone.
were dis-tinct from those "lost 30 years" Miyagi told me about.
The three months to come

ｱｱｱｱｱｱ

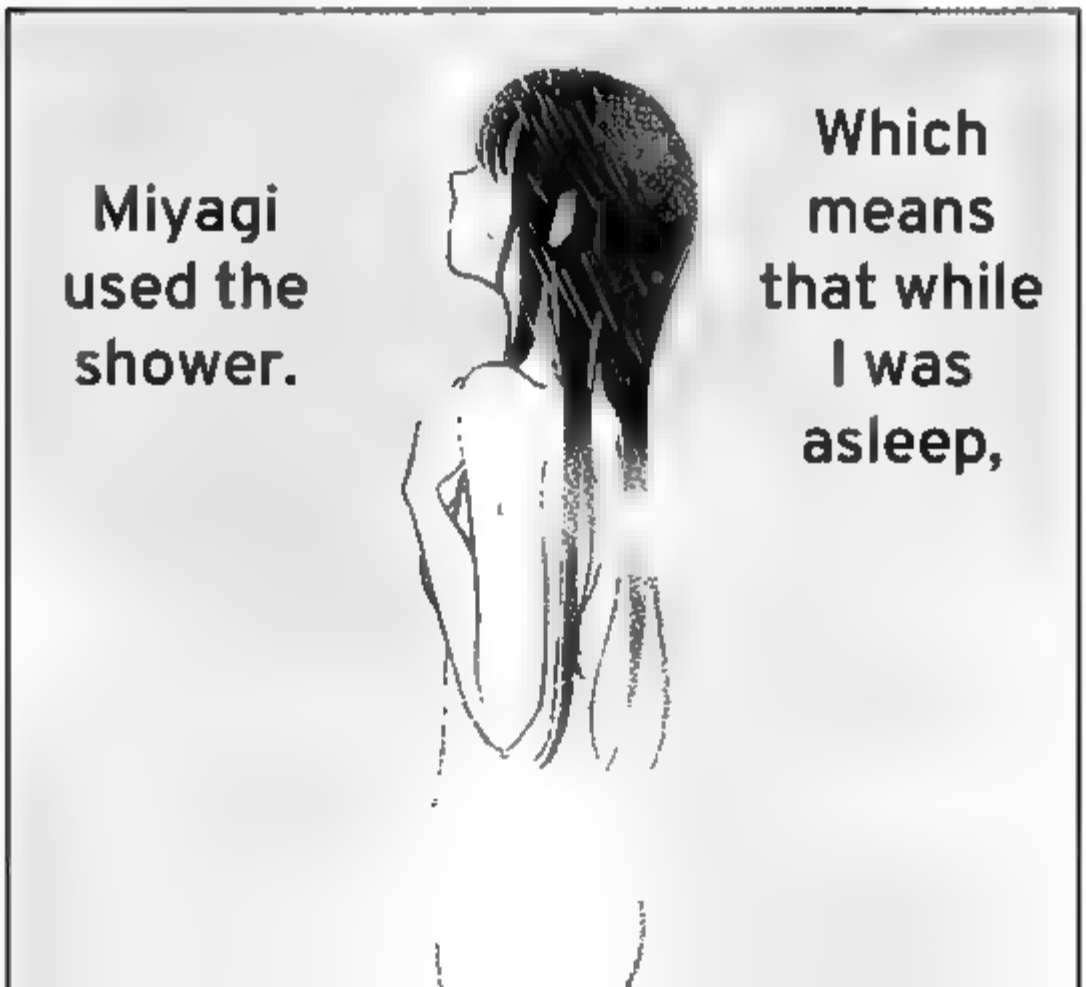
!

これは
Is this...

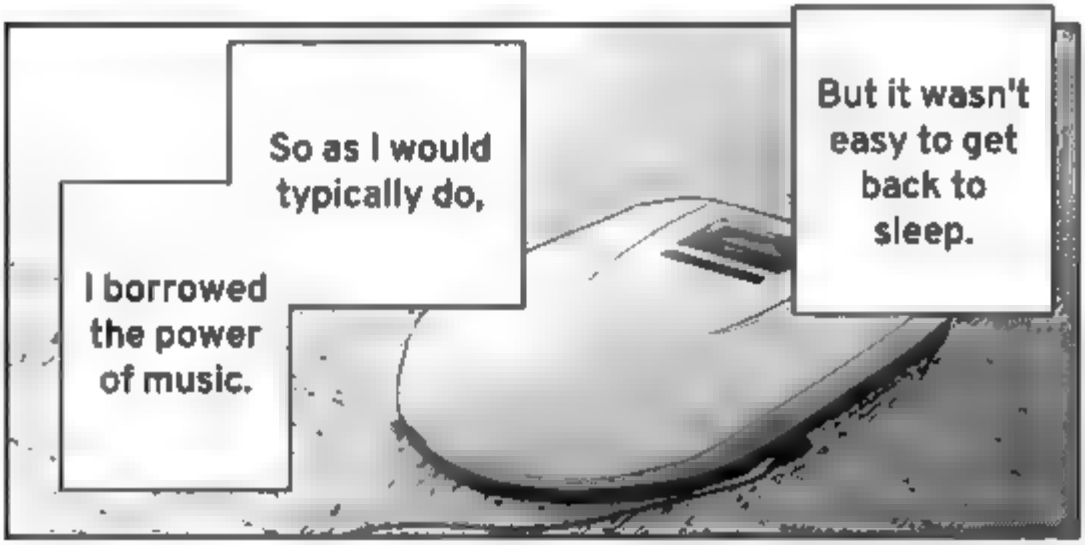
300

Sme.ls sweet

The smell of women's shampoo...


Miyagi used the shower.
Which means that while I was asleep,

Ah, who cares
I need to sleep for tomorrow

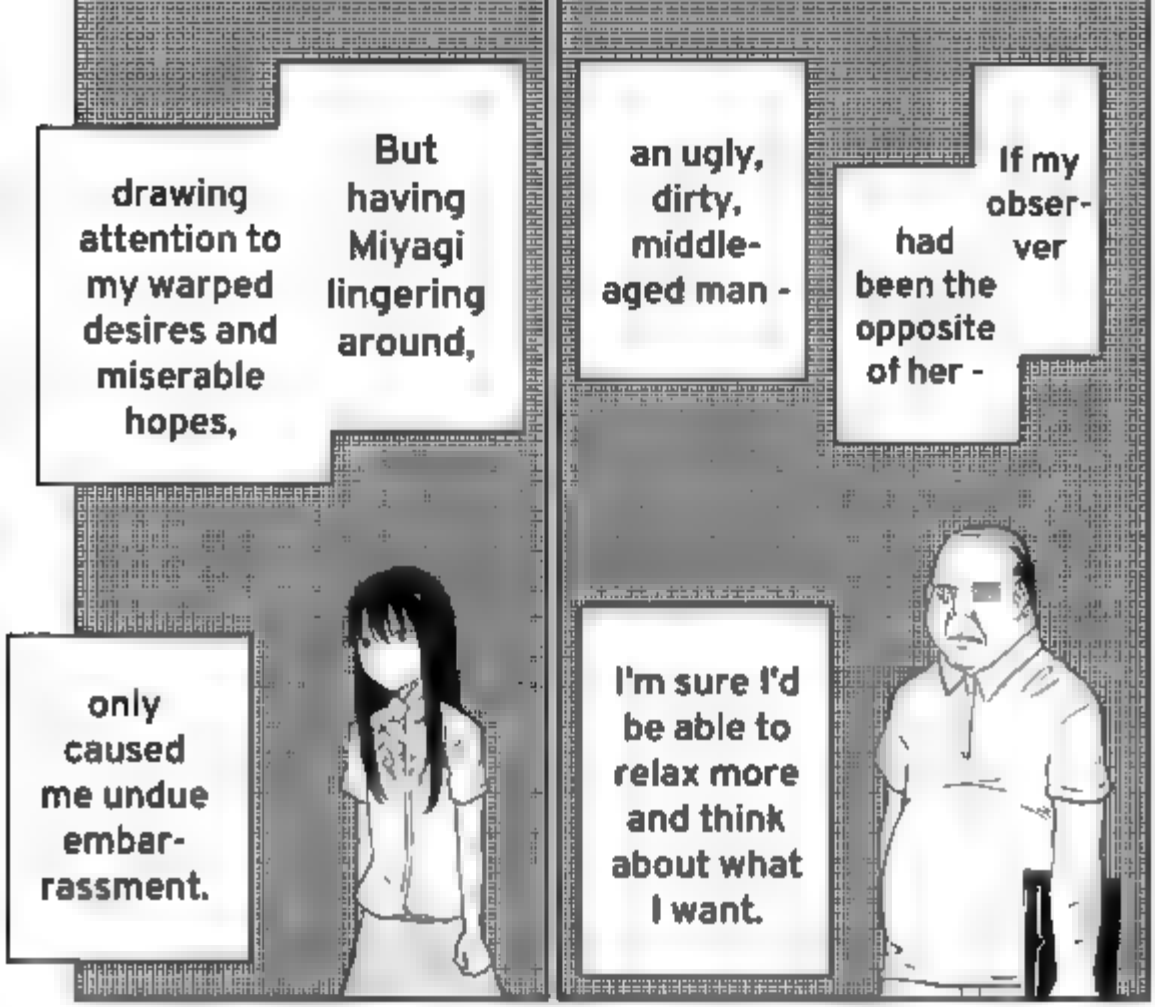

So as I would typically do,
I borrowed the power of music.
But it wasn't easy to get back to sleep.

but a person who listens to this on sleepless nights
will never live a decent life.
This is just what I think,
I put on one of my unsold CDs,
"Please Mr. Lostman."

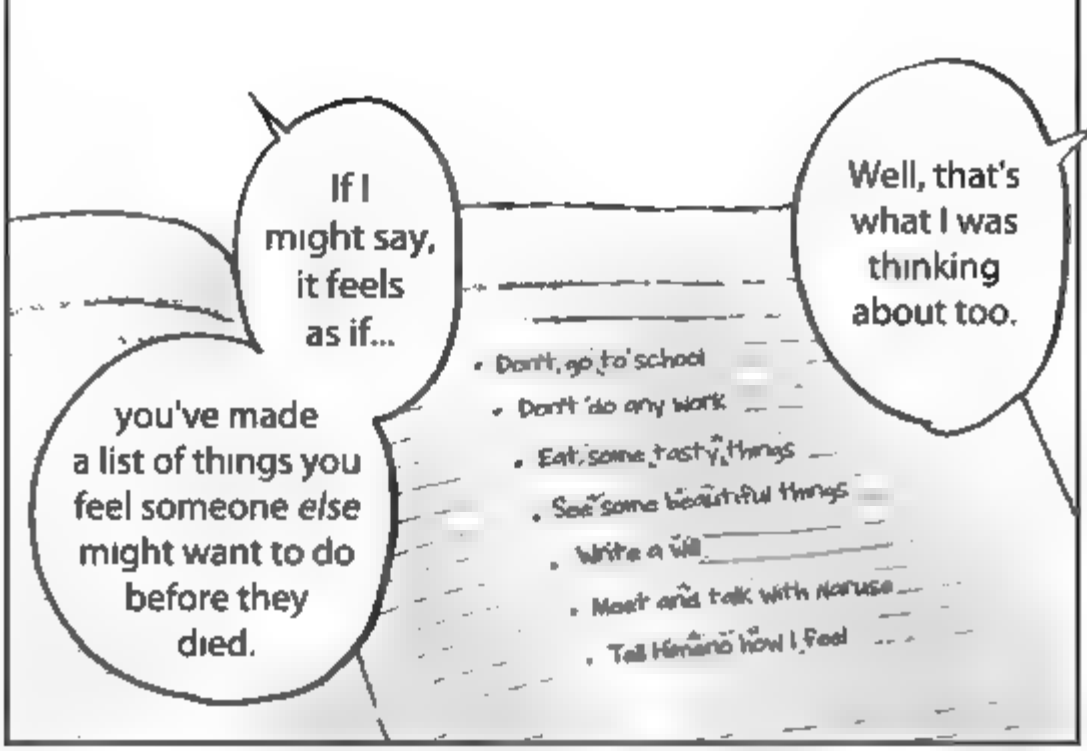
Using music like this,
I, unfit for the world,
excused myself from trying to get used to it.
Maybe I was still
paying the price for that now.
...
Things to Do Before I Die
Don't go to school
• Don't do any work
• Eat some tasty things
• See some beautiful things
Write a song
• Meet and talk with Nanase
Tell Hamano how I feel

How do you plan to spend today?
...

I'd thought this since I first met her,
?
but Miyagi didn't look half-bad.
Well, let me come out and say it.
Strictly in terms of appearance, she was *exactly* my type.


But having Miyagi lingering around,
drawing attention to my warped desires and miserable hopes,
only caused me undue embar-rassment.
If my obser-ver had been the opposite of her -
an ugly, dirty, middle-aged man -
I'm sure I'd be able to relax more and think about what I want.

Are those really things you want to do deep in your heart?
but about the items on that list...
This is just a personal opinion,


If I might say, it feels as if...
you've made a list of things you feel someone *else* might want to do before they died.
Well, that's what I was thinking about too.
• Don't go to school
• Don't do any work
• Eat some tasty things
• See some beautiful things
• Write a will
• Meet and talk with Naruse
• Tell Hinano how I feel

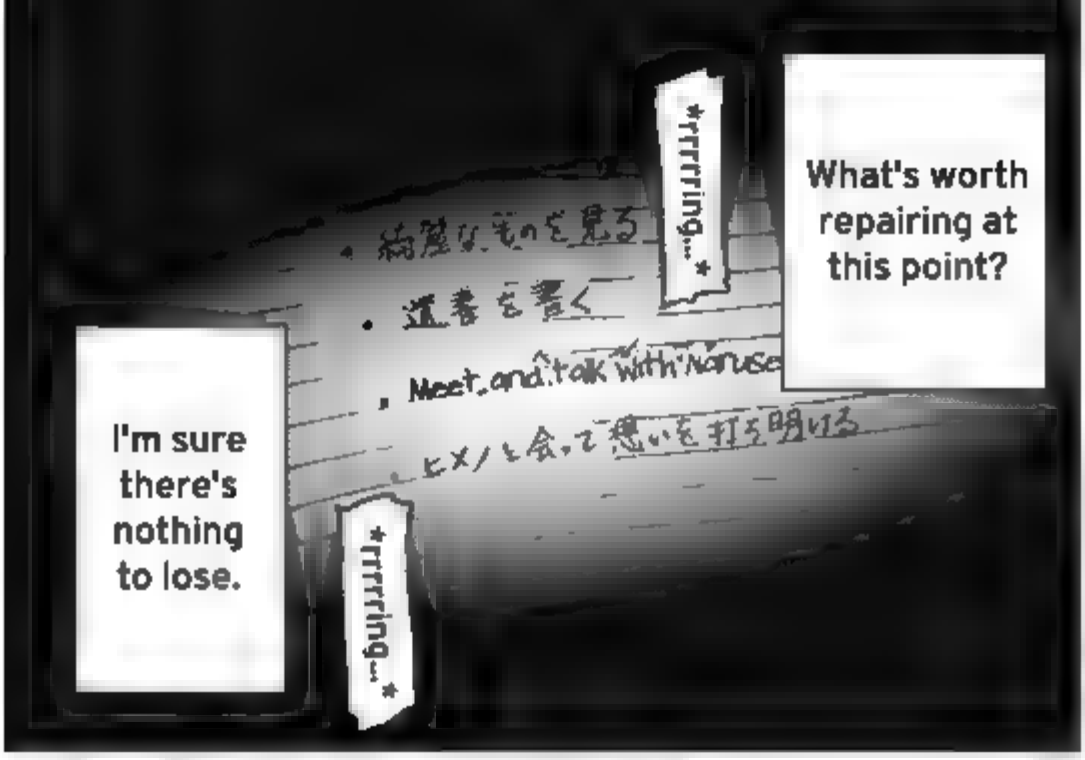
The truth might be that there really isn't a single thing I want to do before I die.
... Maybe

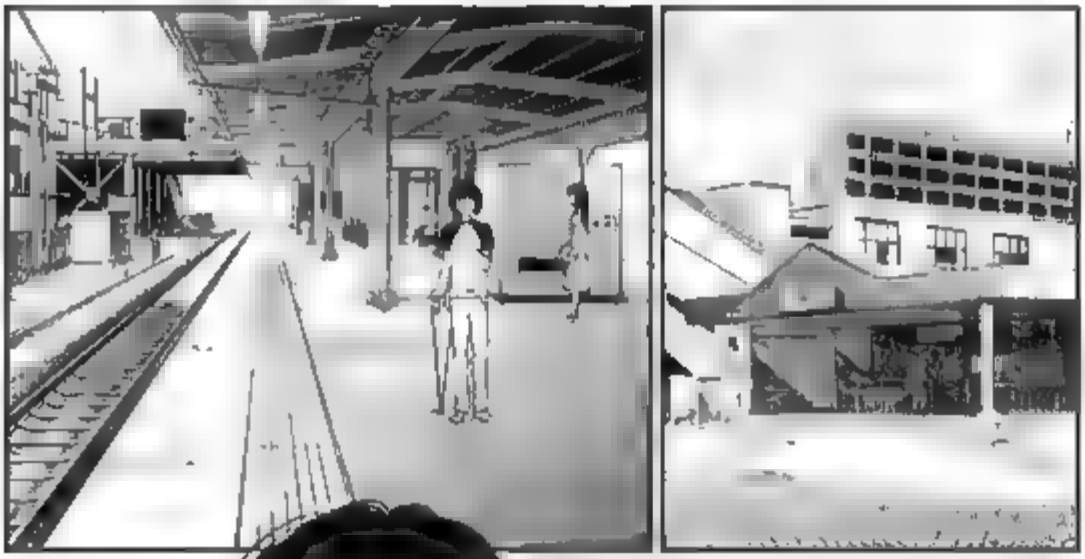
Even still, I feel that there must be a method more suited to you.

I need to be
a little more honest about my warped desires and miserable hopes

Spend my last months following instinct.
more vulgar.
Think cheaper,
more impu-dent,

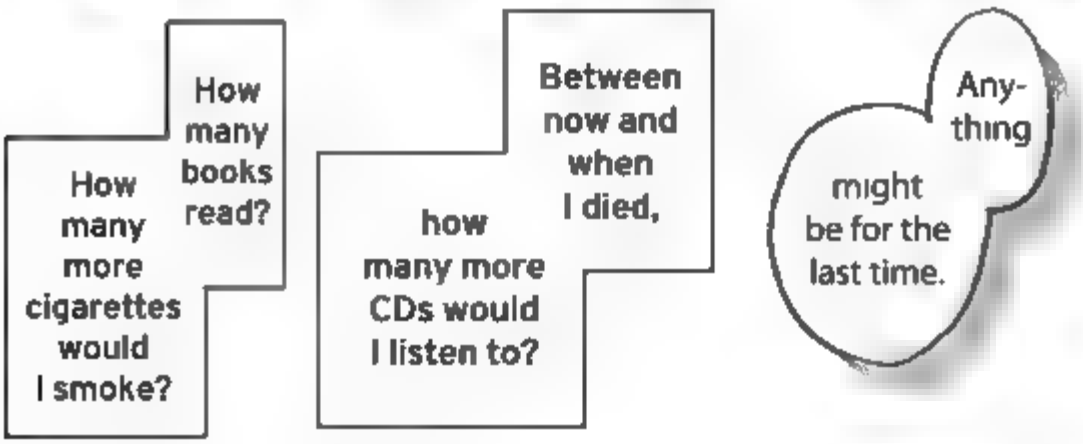
Recipient
Naruse
080-XXXXXXXX

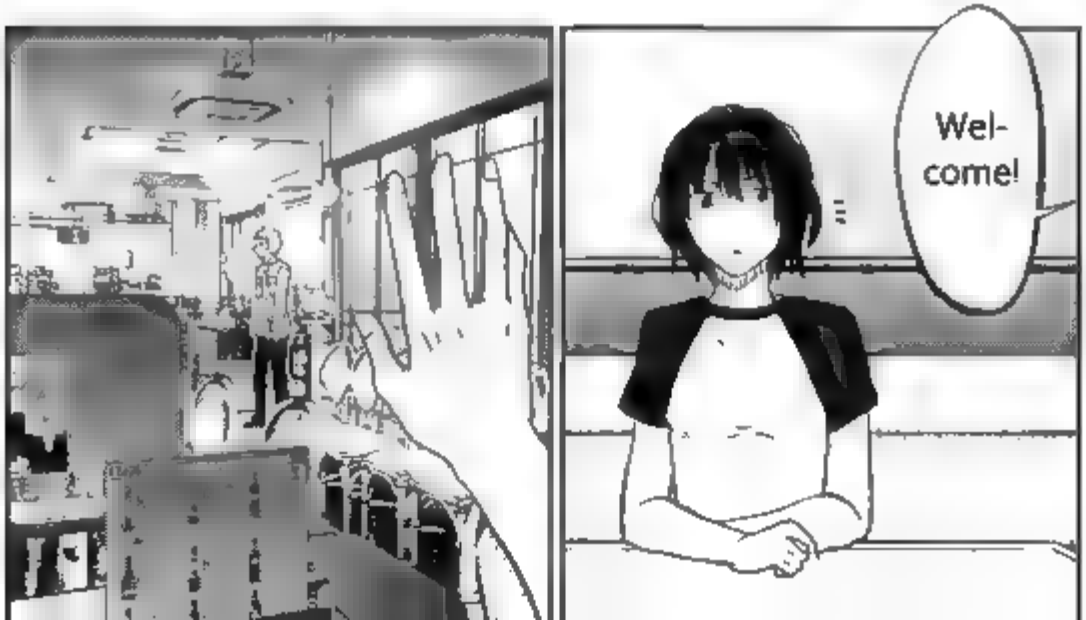

rrrrring...
What's worth repairing at this point?
• 綺麗なものを見る
• 遺書を書く
• Meet and talk with Natsuse
• ヒメノと会って想いを打ち明ける
I'm sure there's nothing to lose.
rrrrring...



!

Well, yeah
This may be the last rainbow you ever
You should probably take a good look.


How many books read?
How many more cigarettes would I smoke?
Between now and when I died,
how many more CDs would I listen to?
Anything might be for the last time.


Wel-
come!

You been doing good?
Long time no see.
Yeah.
Pretty good.

寿命を I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.
買い取ってもらった。
二年につき、一万円で。

Chapter 5

Original: Sugaru Miaki Manga: Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

He's a friend from high school.
This guy who's coming, Naruse...
N

Totally opposite stand-ings, but we were similar in an odd way.
He was popular, I was an outcast.

I see.
So I was thinking I'd like to have a carefree chat with him again.
When we were together, weirdly, we could laugh off any and all bad things.

I had another objective.
To tell the truth,

would be misinterpreted by Naruse.
her watching me with an observing eye,
I hoped that the relationship between me and Miyagi,

Hey, miss observer.
I've got a request...
It was a pathetic hope.
But just once before I died,
I wanted to taste the feeling of being a pretty girl's boyfriend.

Ex-
cuse
me.
Are you
ready to
order?
Sure.
Coffee
for me.
I'll get
right
on it.
You okay
not ordering
anything?
...
Um.
You
should
refrain
from talking
to me when
in public.
What,
is that a
problem?

...I believe
I did explain this to you at the start, but...
Well, you see,
the presence of us observers
cannot be sensed by anyone except for those we observe.

Any sensation I give to a person
is treated as if it didn't happen.

Like so.
tug

The point being, Mr. Kusunoki,
that you currently appear
as if you are talking to air.

So, your request was?
...For-get it.
eee
はっ
Ah...
Wel-come!

Hey!
Kusu-noki!
Long time no see
You been doing good?
Yeah.
Pretty good.

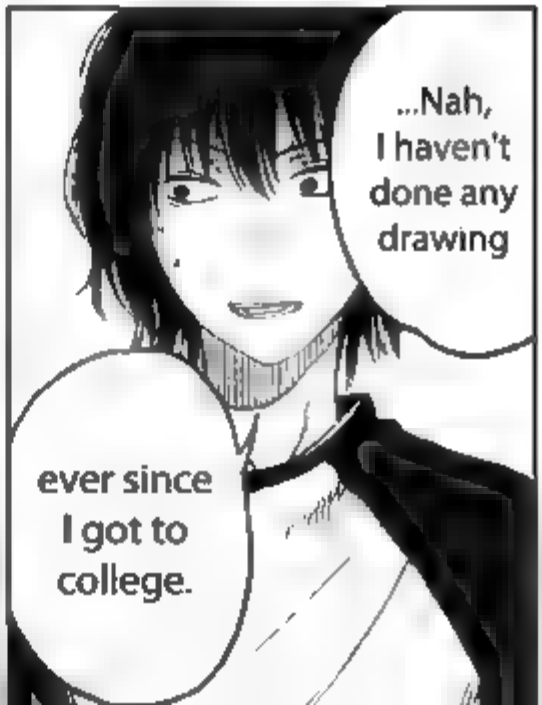
Oh, hot coffee for me!
C'mon, man!
We should keep in touch more!

By the time we'd told each other how things were going,
we started speaking candidly with one another,
as if back in high school.
As we laughed about pointless stuff,
I was able to forget about my encroaching death.

By the way, Kusunoki.
I'd say I was having fun.
Until *that* came out of his mouth,

U-Uh...
Do you still draw at all?

Thought so.


...Nah, I haven't done any drawing ever since I got to college.

If you were still drawing,
I dunno what I would've done.

That
put an end to it.

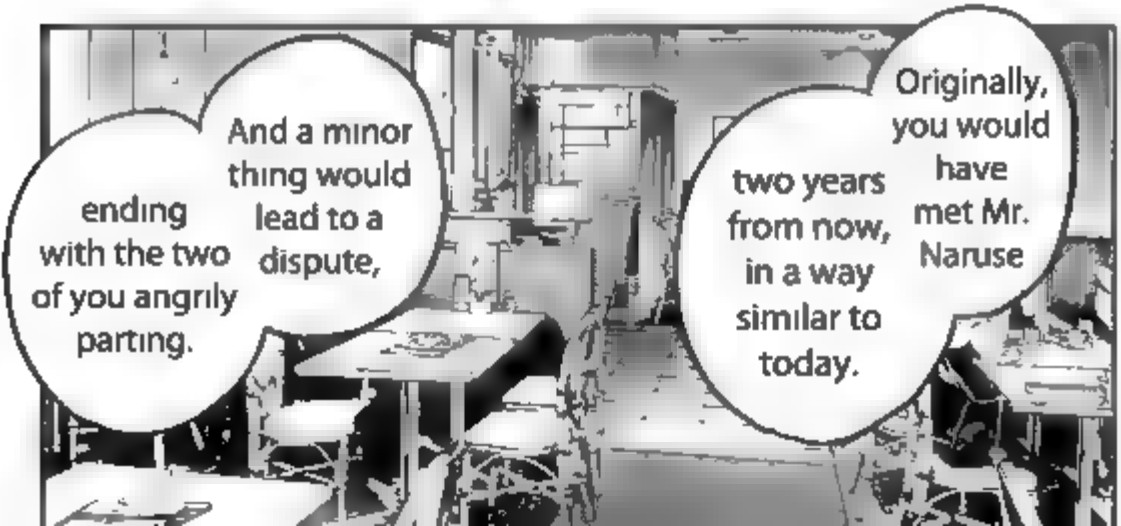
That's the one thing you can't laugh at.
Hey.
Naru-se.

it's something that's okay to laugh at.
that abso-lutely doesn't mean
But even so,
True, I gave up on it.

And I thou-ght you, at least, would have understood that.

It would seem
you've just now come to hate Mr. Naruse a bit.
...Be quiet.
..Now then.
Let's compare answers.

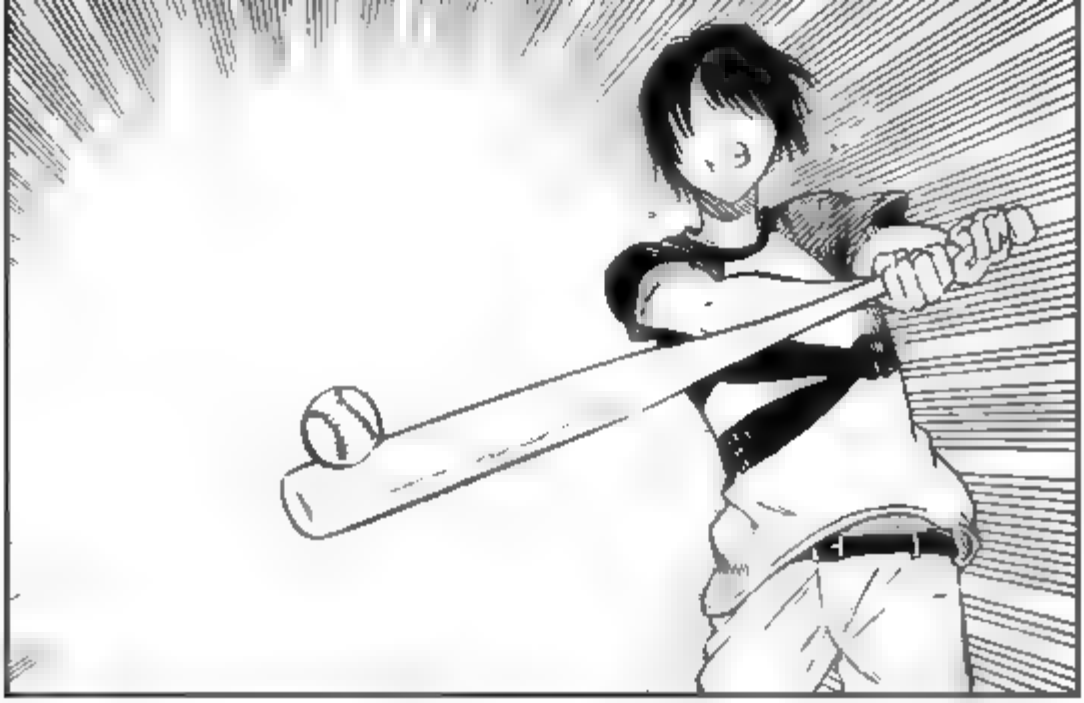
is not as fond of you
as you may believe.
But in truth, Mr. Naruse too

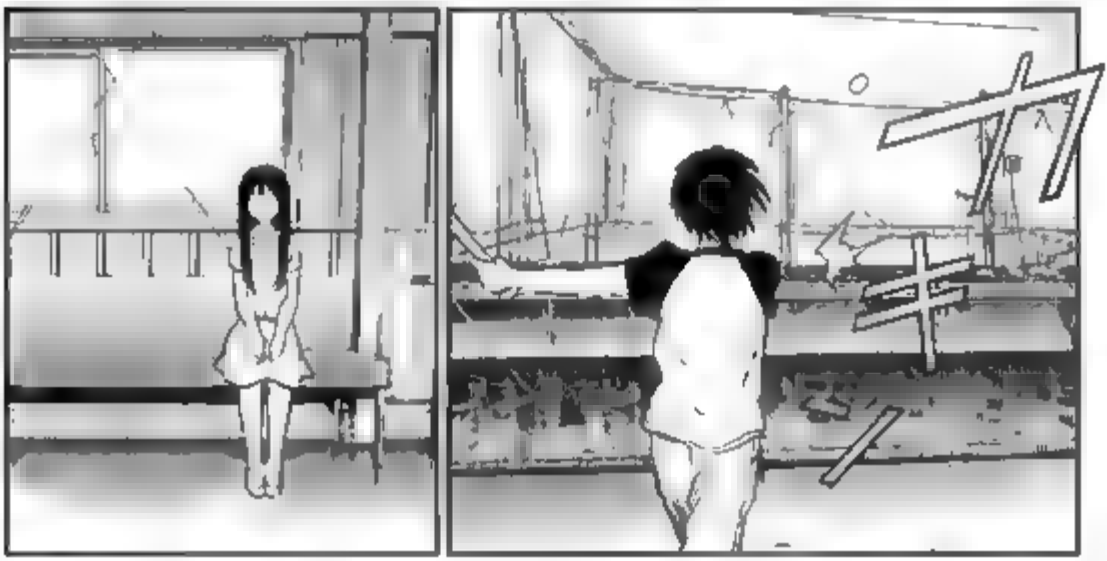

And a minor thing would lead to a dispute,
ending with the two of you angrily parting.
Originally, you would have met Mr. Naruse
two years from now, in a way similar to today.

...You should cut it off soon before it reaches that point.
Shut up...
Nothing good will come of placing your hopes in this man.
You... all of you...
Shut UP!

*SHAT-
TER*

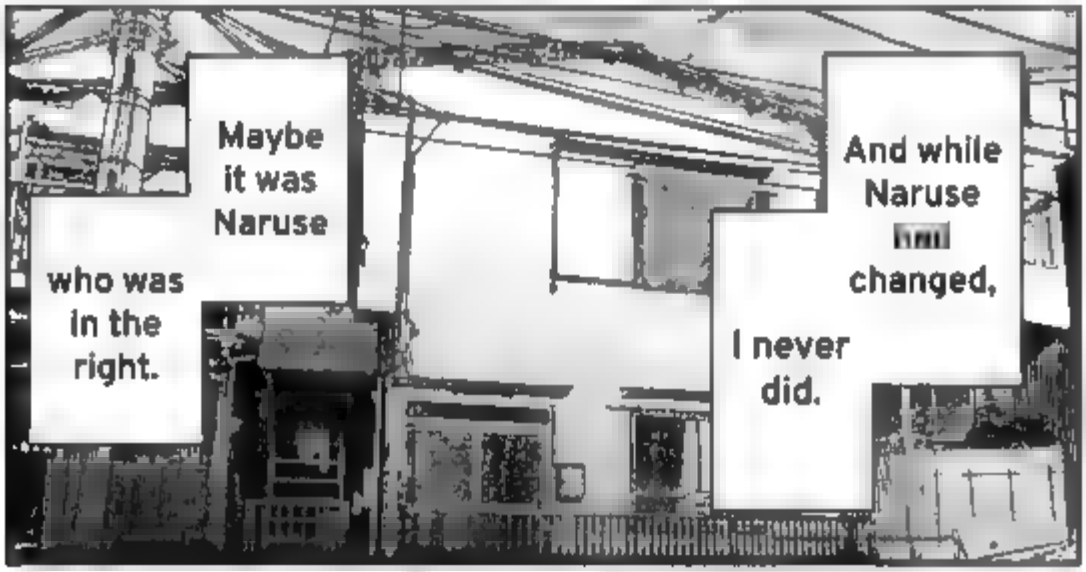
S-
Sir?!





I didn't feel any regret
for leaving Naruse like that.

but via his approval of my thoughts,
I hoped I could love myself.
Perhaps I didn't really care for Naruse the person,


Maybe it was Naruse who was in the right.
And while Naruse [redacted] changed, I never did.

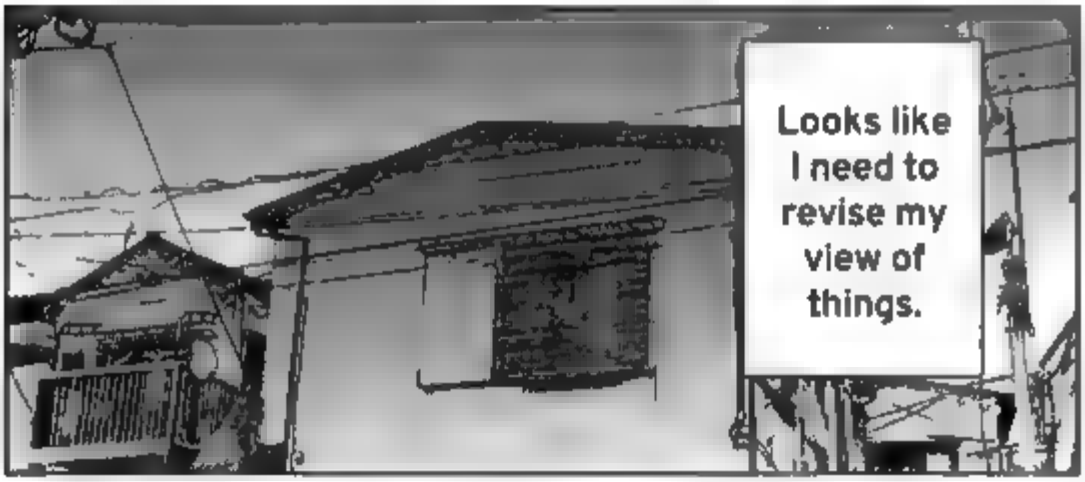
I'm sorry about what I did back there.
You're not hurt?
Hey. Miss observer

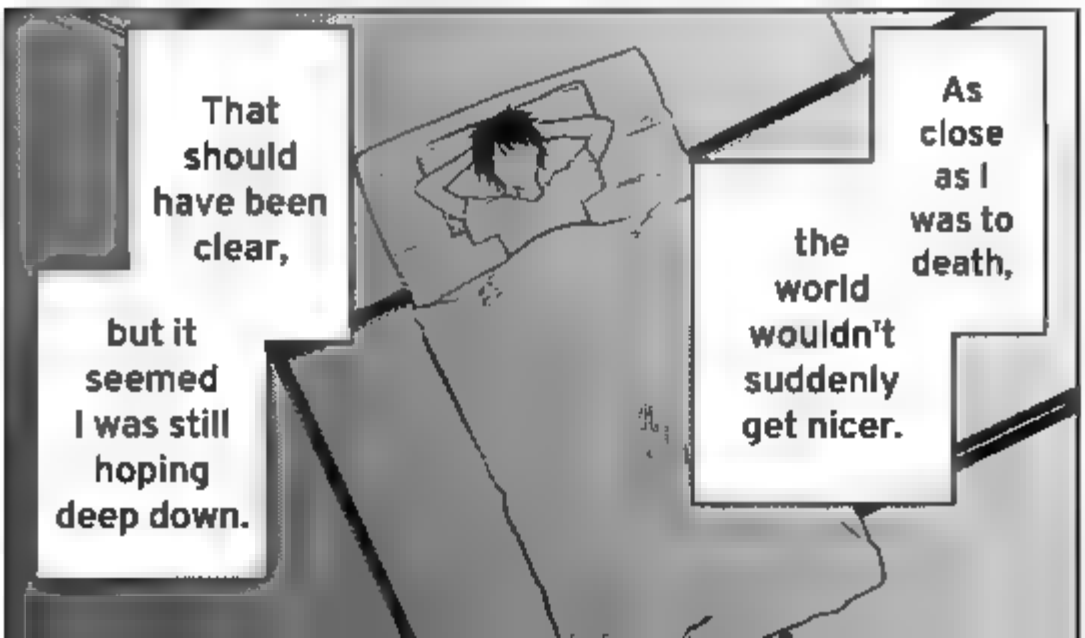
When you're done with that observation log or whatever, you wanna drink?
Hey, I really am sorry.
Unfortunately I am not.
It's fine.
Because it didn't hit.

you want to drink with me?
...
Are you saying that

You should've just said that first then.
Well, apologies, but I can't.
I'm on the job.
I see
Well, yeah
I'm lonely

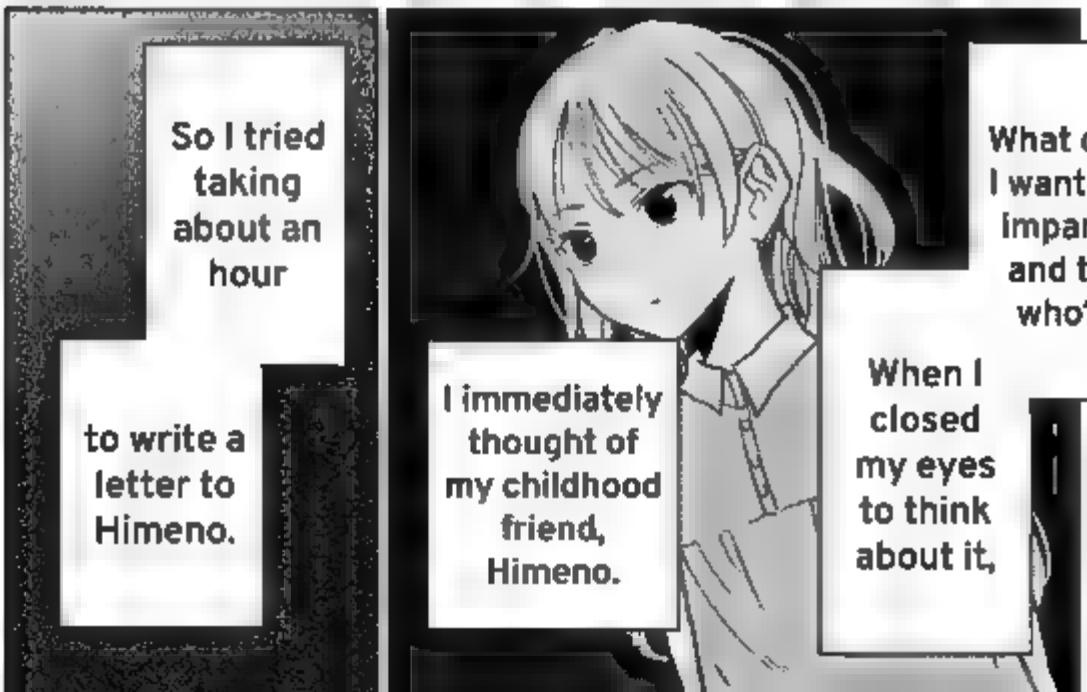
...I get lonely sometimes, like anybody else.
...I see.
I was unsure why you would say something like that,
I mean.
Sorry.
I just found it a bit odd.


Looks like I need to revise my view of things.


That should have been clear,
but it seemed I was still hoping deep down.
As close as I was to death,
the world wouldn't suddenly get nicer.

I decided to write a will.

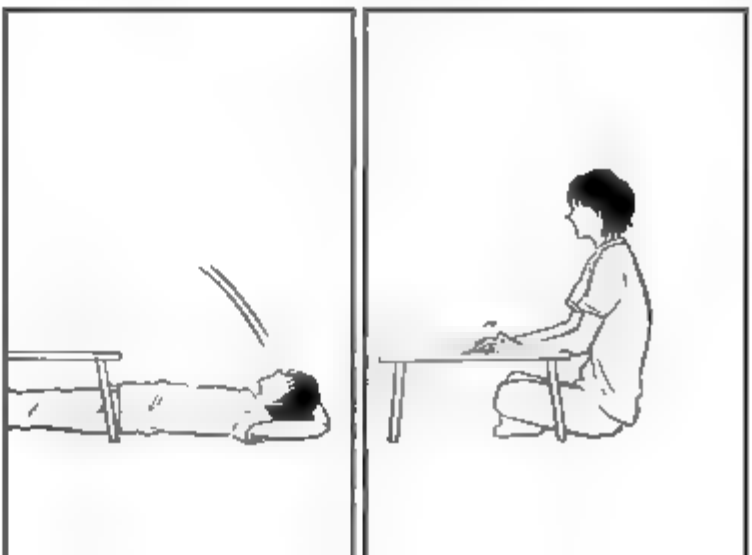
...
cicadas...


So I tried taking about an hour
to write a letter to Himeno.
I immediately thought of my childhood friend, Himeno.
When I closed my eyes to think about it,
What did I want to impart, and to who?

I don't know what you think of me by now, but I've kept loving you since that day ten years ago.
I survived until twenty because of my memories from when I was with you, and I won't survive beyond twenty because I can't stand a world without you.
Now that I'm about to die, I've finally realized that. In a way, I've already been dead for a long time. Ever since the day we went our separate ways.
Goodbye. I'm praying ten-year-old me survives inside you for a little longer.

To summarize what I ended up with:

When was the last time I wrote a letter?



I want you to write your letter
To your future self
to yourself, ten years from now.

"Did your dream come true?", or
"Are you happy?", or
"Please don't forget about this" might be good things to write.

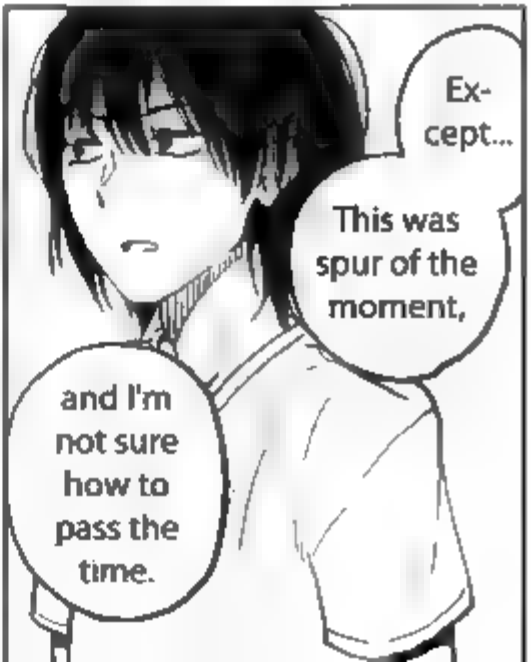
Also, at the end of the letter,
please write
the name of the person who's your best friend now.

How do you plan to spend today?

Time capsule raiding.

Sure-ly
you won't just sneak into a school
and dig holes in the middle of the day?
Na-tural-ly,
I'll wait for night.

Perhaps you might tour some places from your past?


Ex-cept...
This was spur of the moment,
and I'm not sure how to pass the time.

With the exception of Ms. Himeno, I assume?
I don't have much of a good past in this town.
Places from my past, huh.
Is that so. I'll be more cautious henceforth.
I especially don't want to hear it out of your mouth.
Don't bring up her name so lightly.
Gonna be another scorcher.

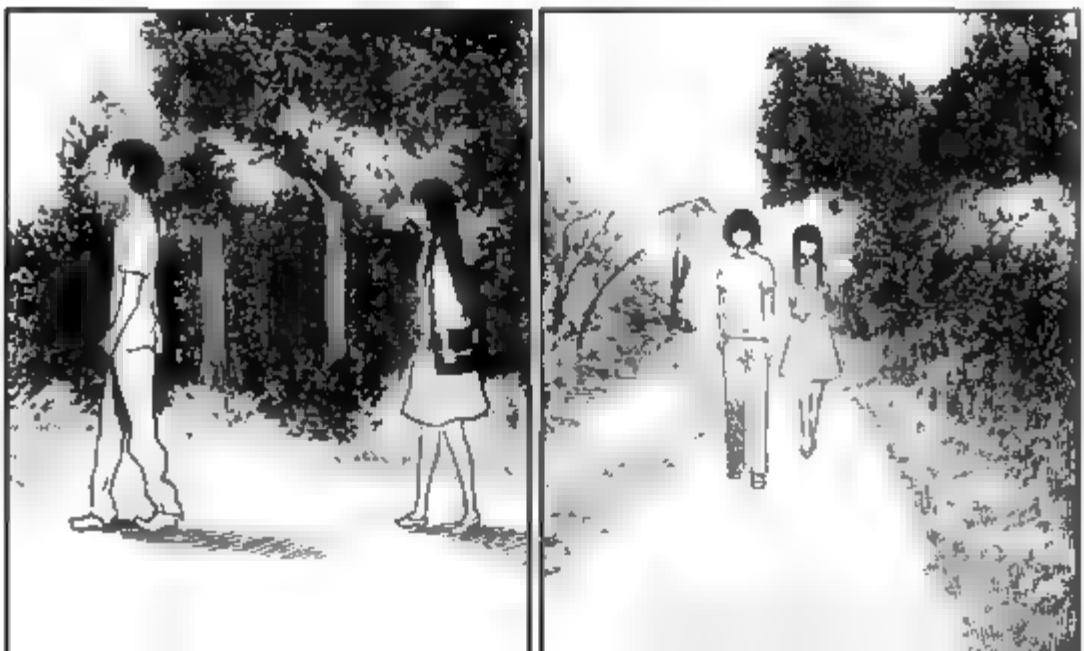
Aren't you
invisible to everyone but me?

Yes.
I'm only seen by those I observe.
Although there are exceptions...
Essentially, yes.
Always?

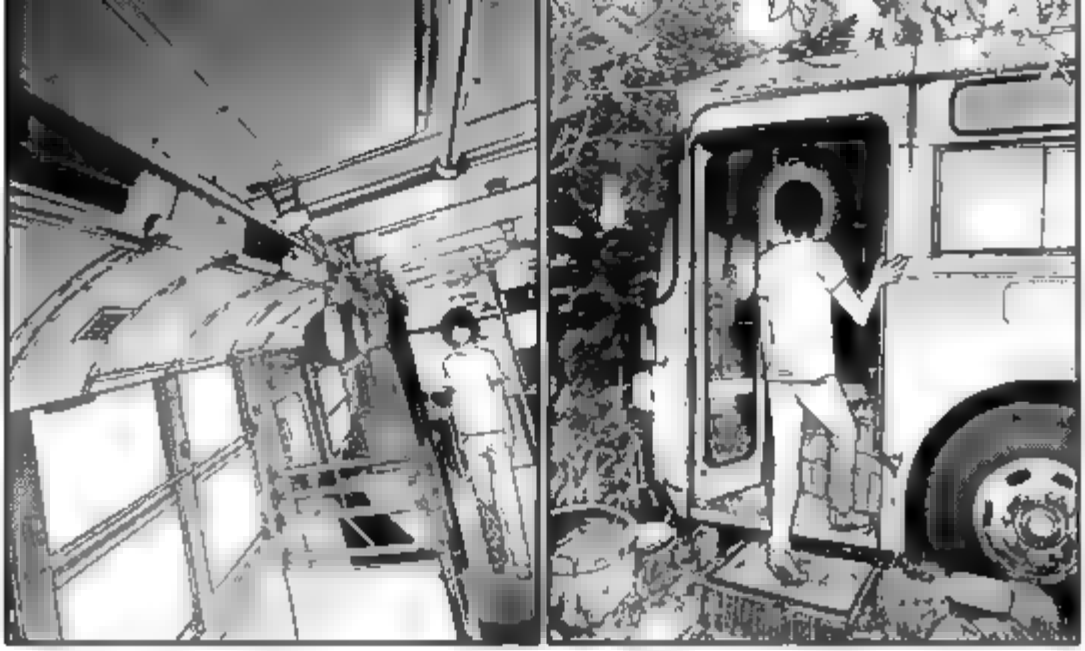
I wondered why you'd fuss over your appearance
if nobody can see you,
Nope, nothing.
It's just,
Is something the matter?

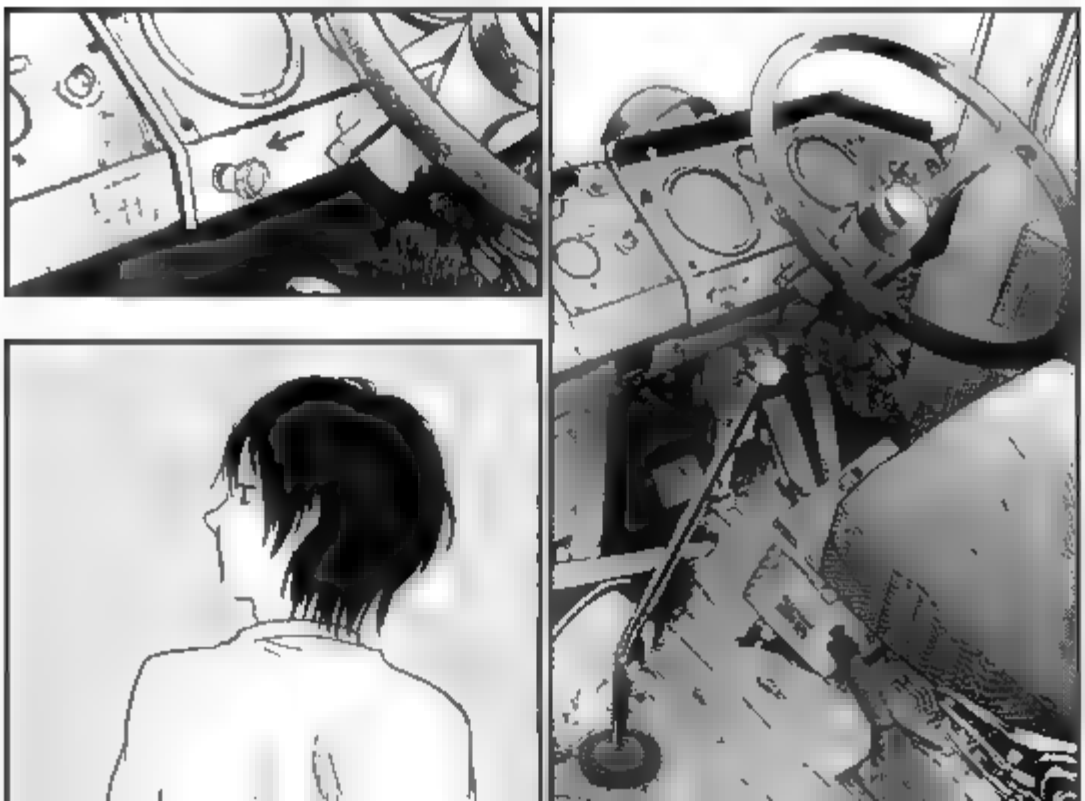
Even if you had no plans to meet anyone, you would still shower, wouldn't you?
...
I do it for myself.

I was glad I could get back at her.
But since it was Miyagi,
If it were any other girl, I'd have rushed to apologize
It seemed Miyagi really took offense at that remark.

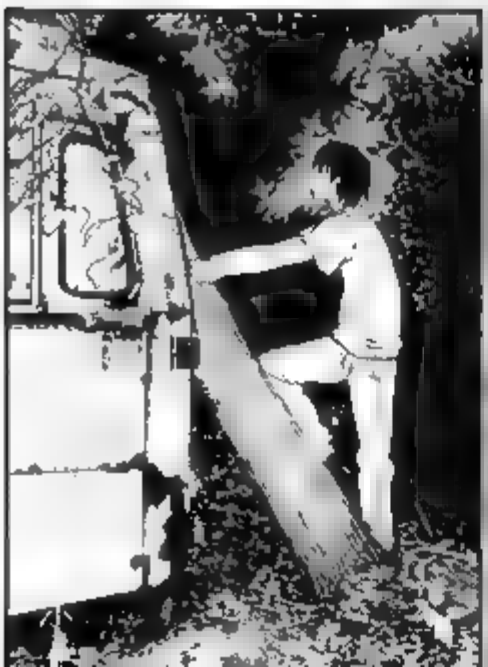


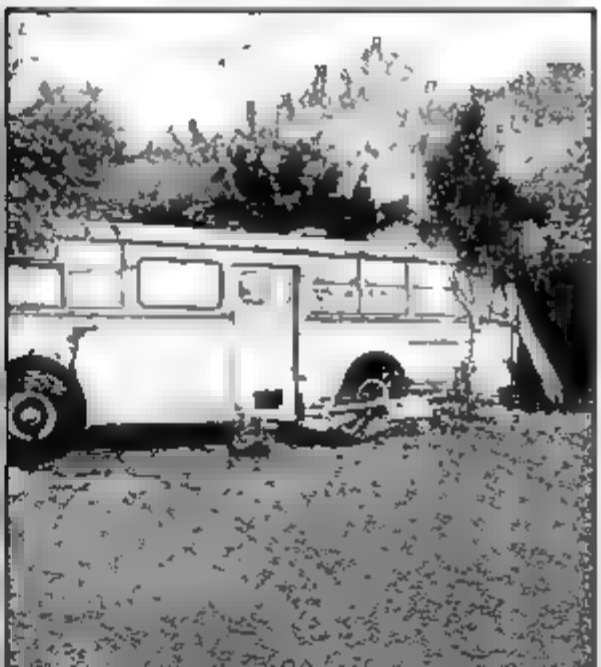
A so-called "secret base"
What is this ..?

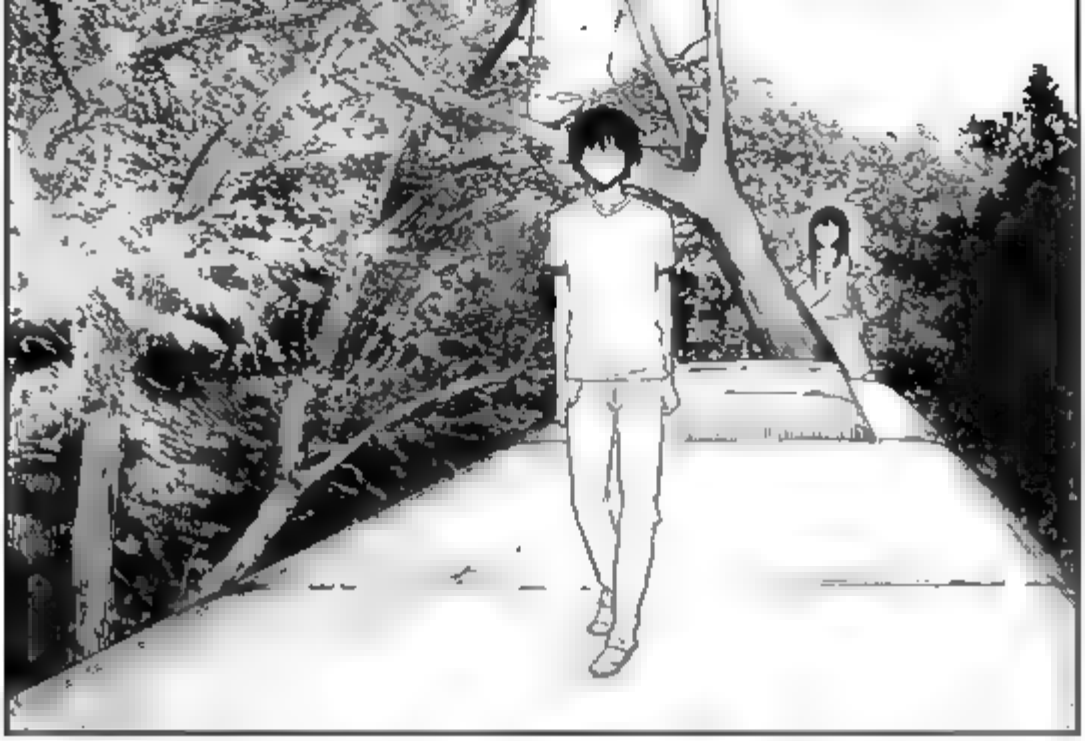




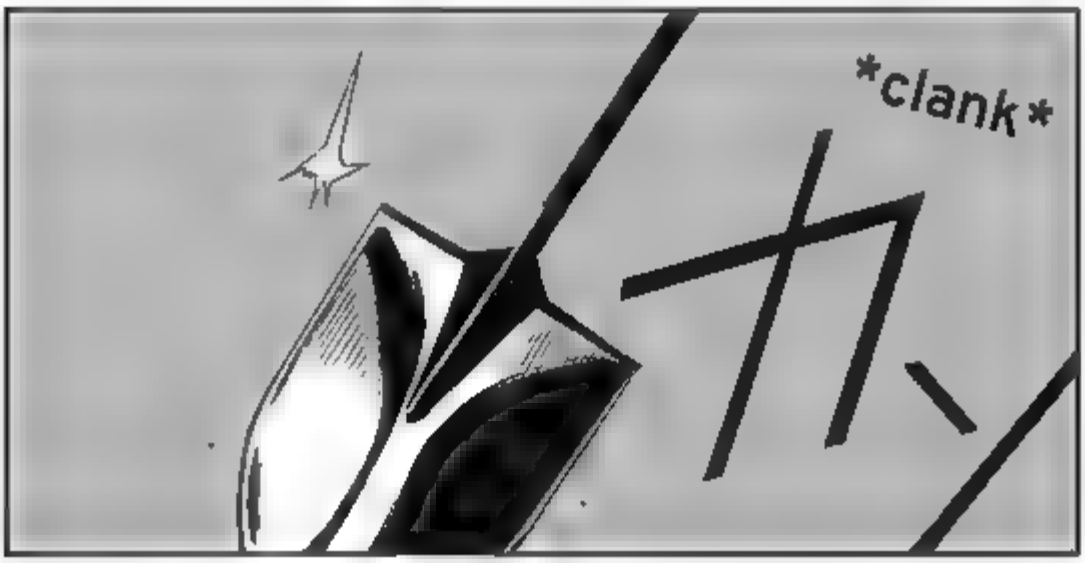
Kusunoki
Himeno







It's not here!
Maybe t was dug up a ready

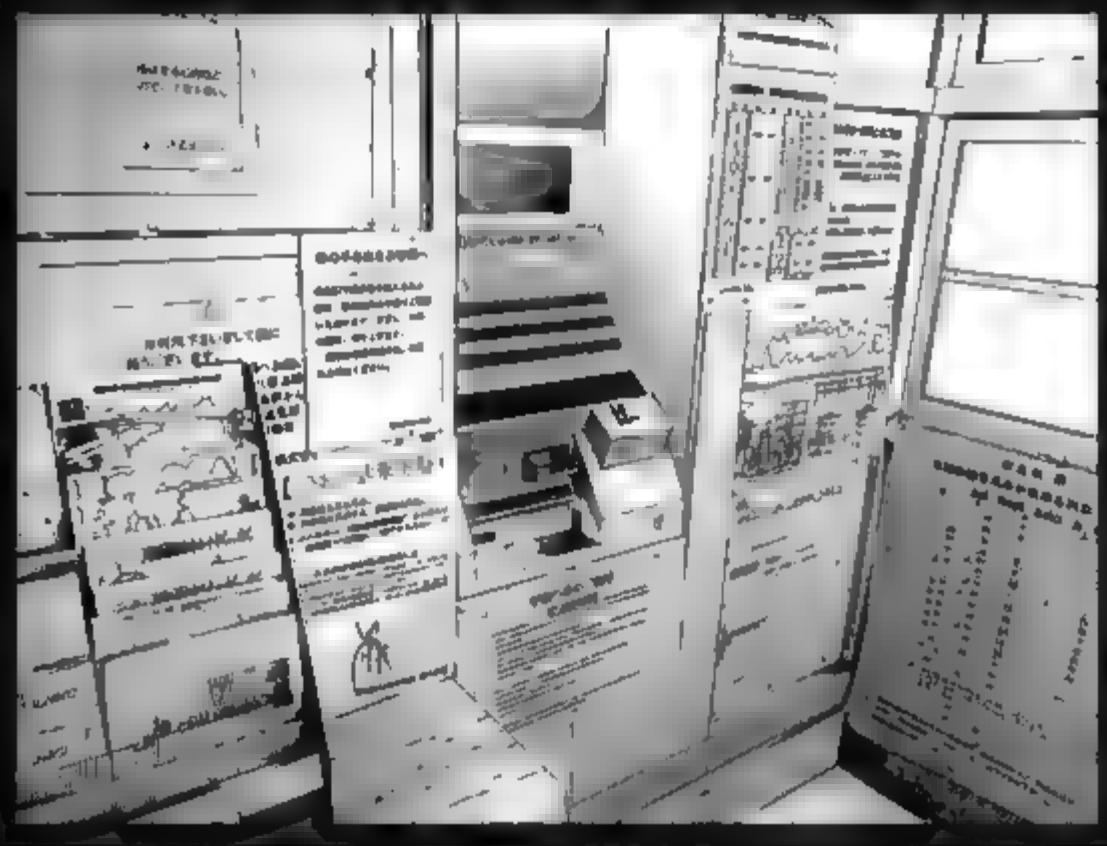

clank

There we go.
!

It was
the time capsule buried ten years ago.

寿命を買い取ってもらった。二年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

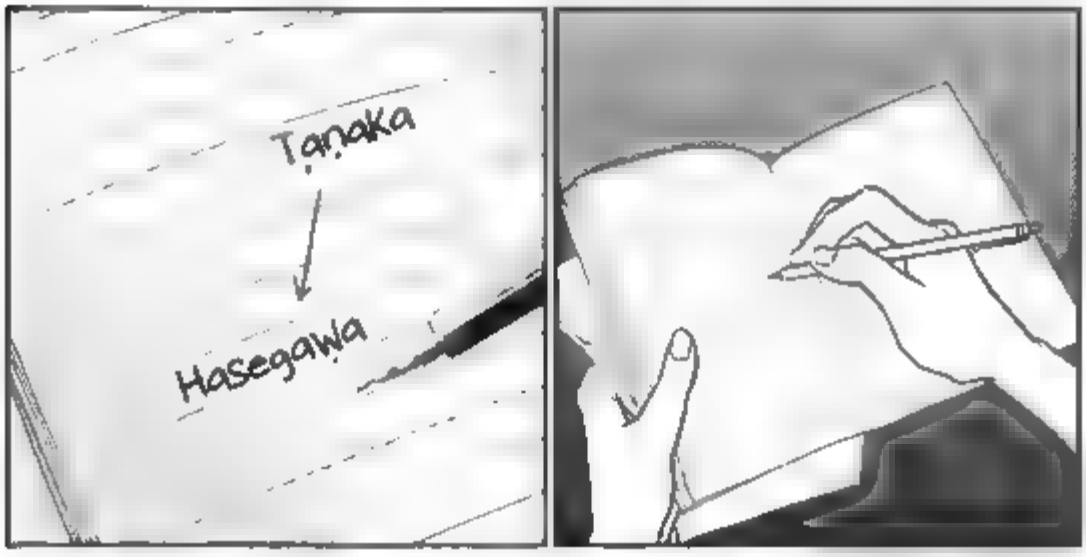


Chapter 6

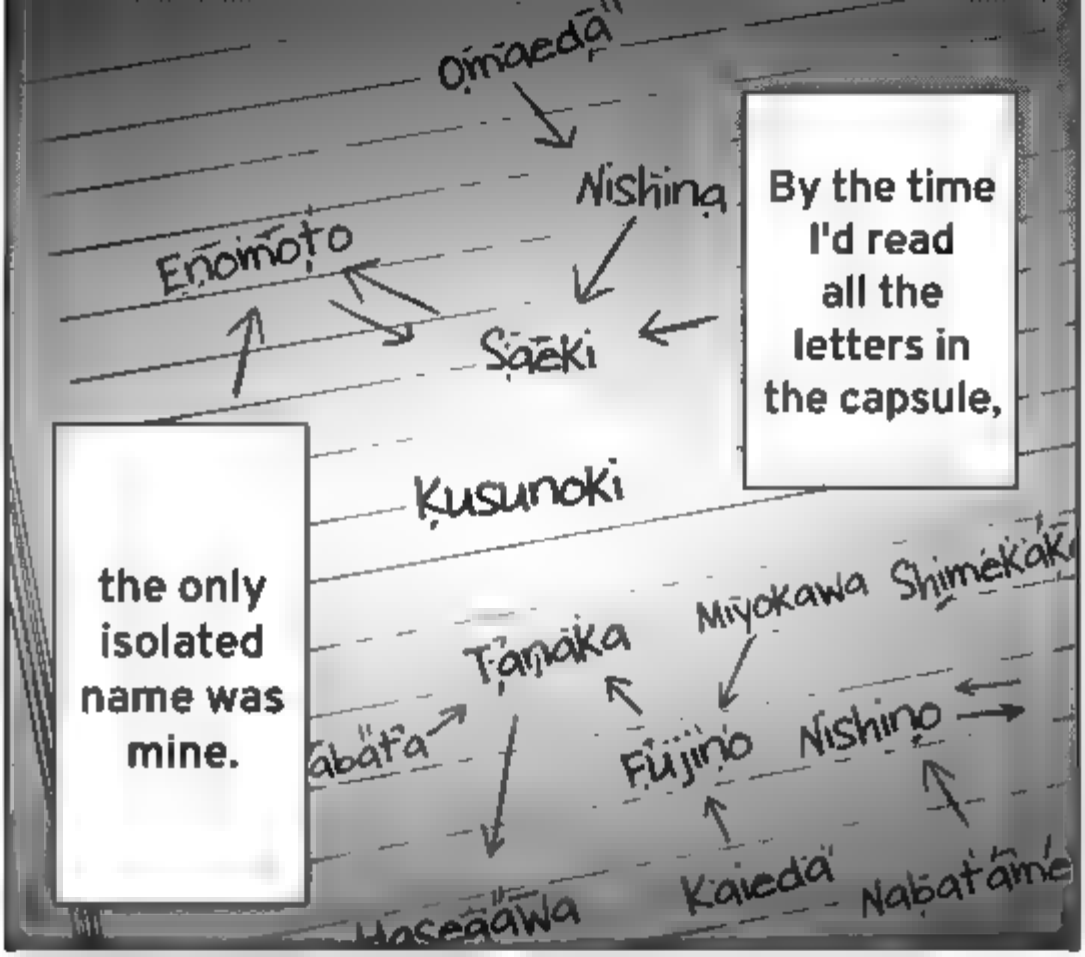
Original: Sugaru Miaki Manga: Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi

clatter
My Best Friend
Hasegawa

I'm gonna die in a few months.
I should be allowed that much.
Are you sure you should be reading other people's letters?

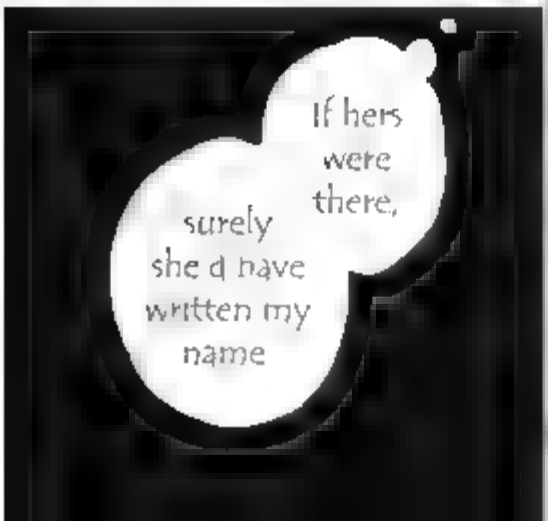

Tanaka
Hasegawa

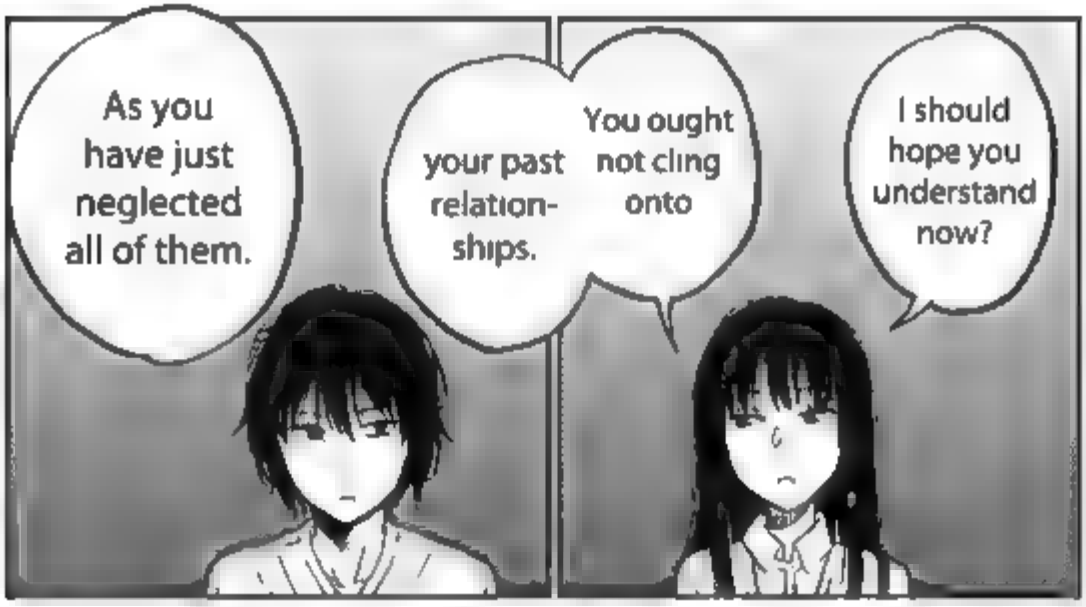
While I'd expected as much...

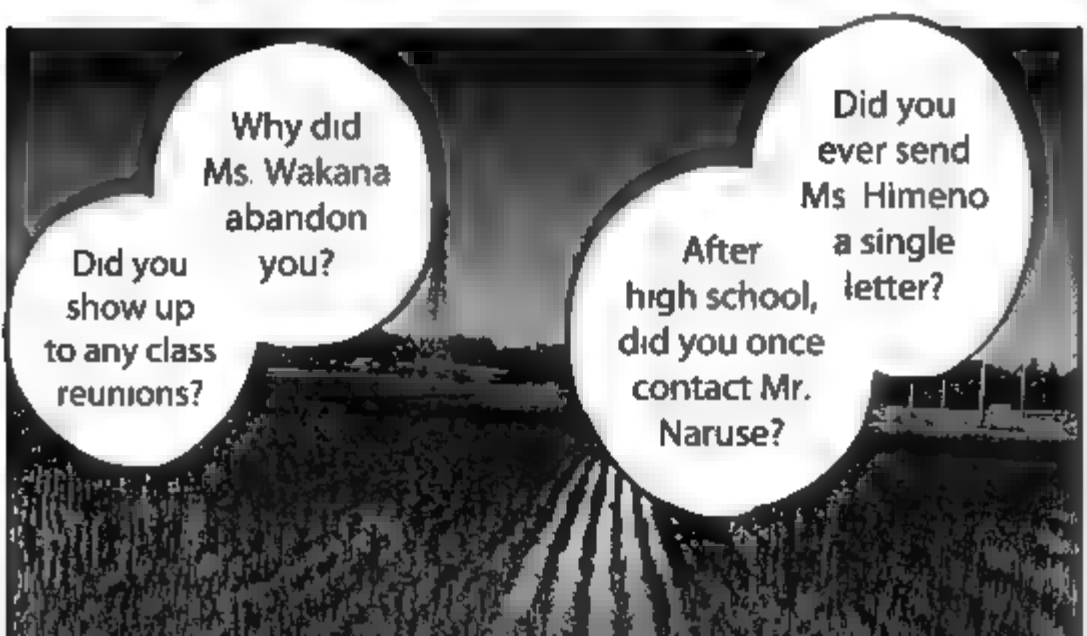

Ōmaeda
Nishina
Enomoto
Saeki
By the time I'd read all the letters in the capsule,
Kusunoki
the only isolated name was mine.
Tanaka
Miyokawa
Shimekaka
Fujino
Nishino
Kaieda
Nabatame

If only Himeno's letter were there

...
...And Ms. Himeno's letter is nowhere to be found.

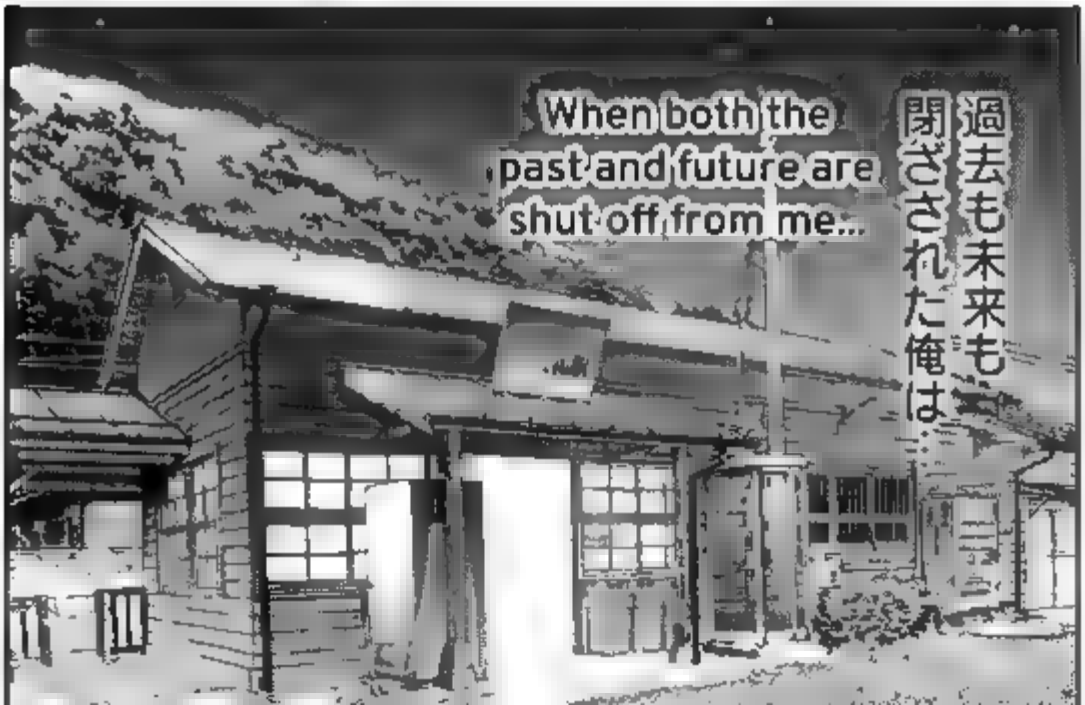

If hers were there,
surely she'd have written my name

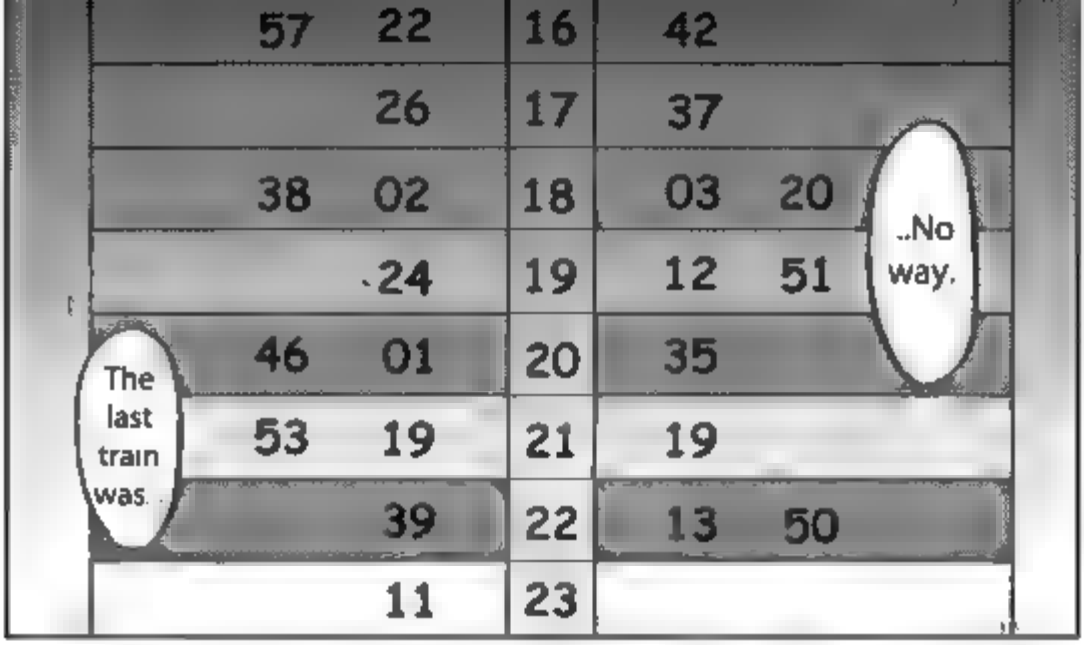

As you have just neglected all of them.
your past relation-ships.
You ought not cling onto
I should hope you understand now?


Why did Ms. Wakana abandon you?
Did you show up to any class reunions?
Did you ever send Ms Himeno a single letter?
After high school, did you once contact Mr. Naruse?

...Pardon the remark, but,
don't you feel that clinging to the past now is asking for too much?

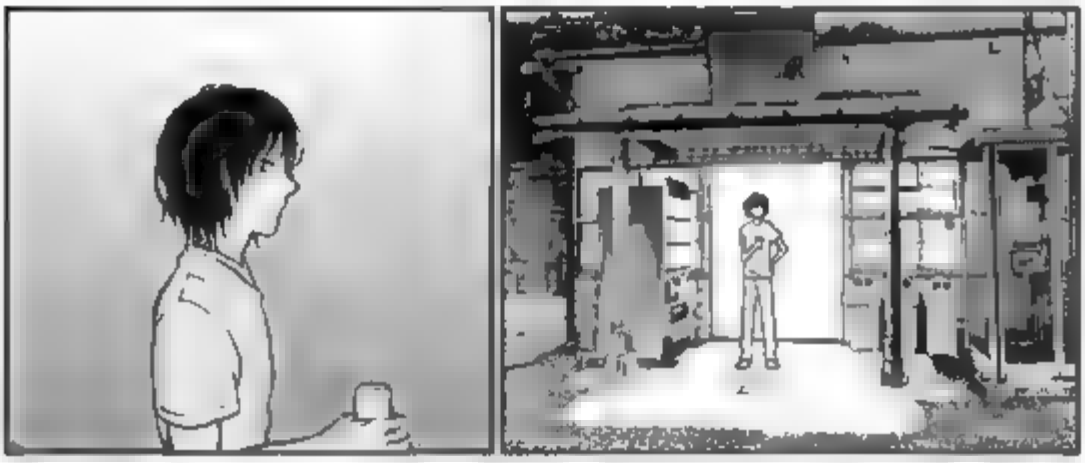
Well then
What do I even cling to?

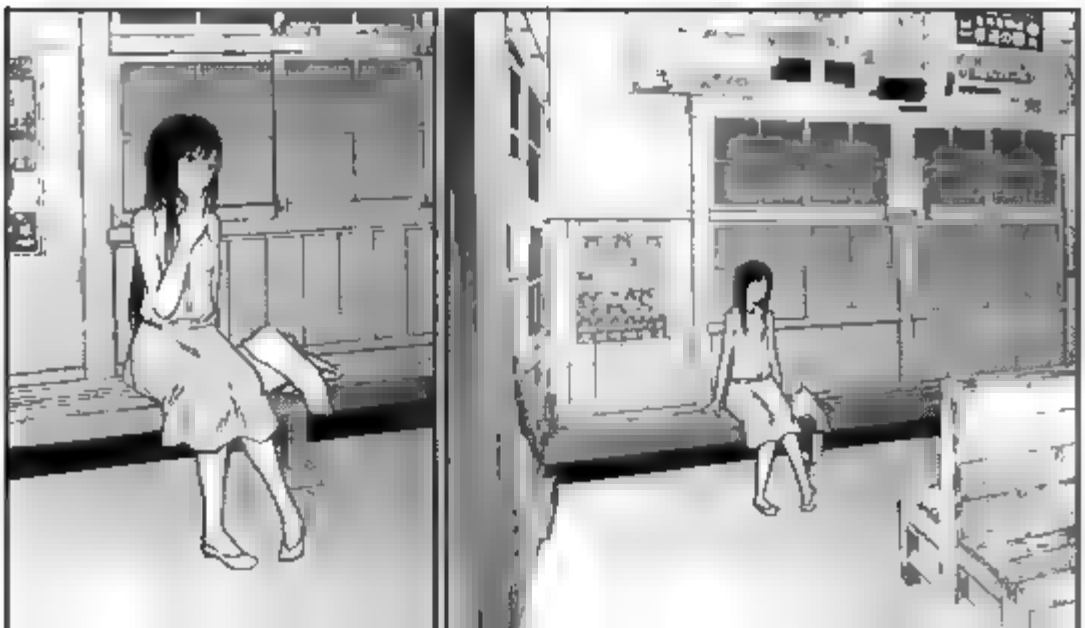

When both the past and future are shut off from me...
過去も未来も閉ざされた俺は


57 22
26
38 02
24
46 01
53 19
39
11
16 42
17 37
18 03 20
19 12 51
20 35
21 19
22 13 50
23
The last train was.
..No way.

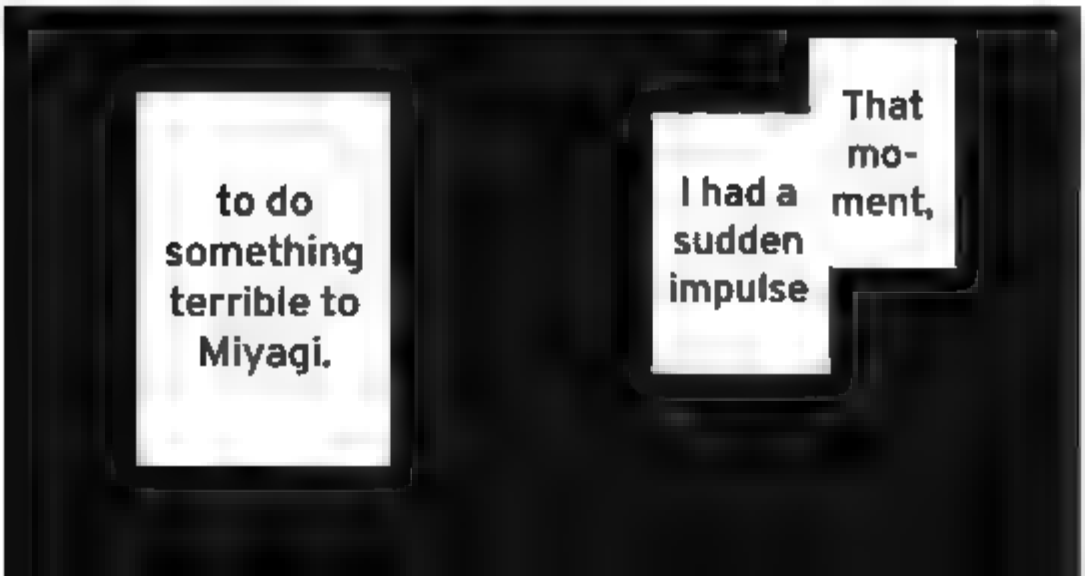
Sorry, we're spending the night here.
Find some way to kill time.
はあ
sigh
whump

clunk
ガコン





I was just confused.
... Probably,


to do something terrible to Miyagi.
I had a sudden impulse
That moment,

...Yes?
I've got a question for you.

how much of a lag is there before their lifespan's terminated?
Once an observer finds their subject doing an "inappropriate act,"

And why would you be asking?
...

I want to know how long it'd take before I would be killed
Basically, if I were to get violent with you right here,

Con-
tact
can be
made
instantly.
After that,
it wouldn't
take 20
minutes.
And
escape
would be
completely
impossible.

So, I'd
have about
ten-some
minutes to
act freely?

Nobody
said anything
like that.

...

Was I really going to push Miyagi down, pin her on the floor, and use her to fulfill my desires?

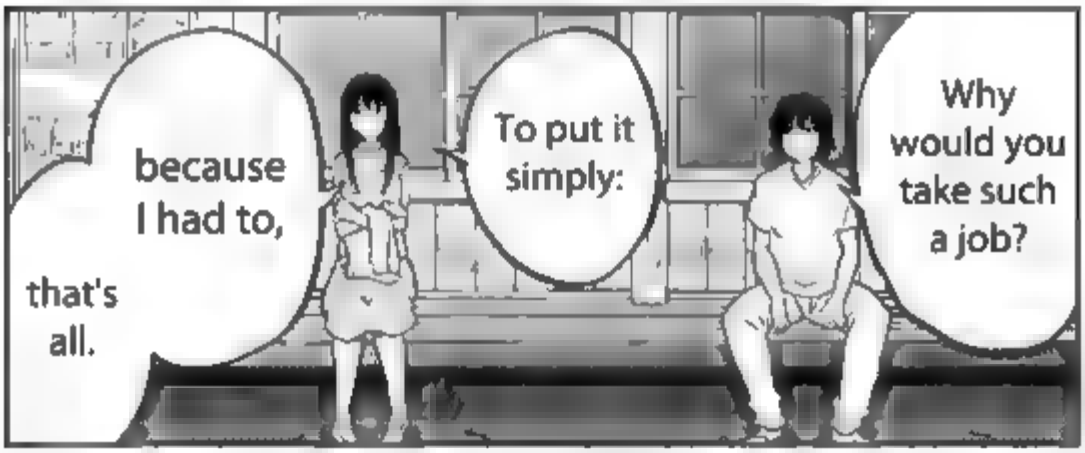
If I did,
maybe I would injure her.
Maybe I'd be adding another wound
like the big one on her knee.
Maybe I would take even more light
from her nearly pitch-black eyes.
Maybe once it was all over,
she'd just make a sarcastic remark,
as if totally unfazed.
...Were you satis-fied?

...
Must be a nasty job.

Having to deal with garbage like me all the time.
...Your understanding is appreciated.

Dangerous job.
Guys who go nuts when they're about to die,
and take their anger out on their observer.
There's no shortage of guys like me, I bet?

There have been many who go
to much further extremes.
As a matter of fact,
you are more of an easy case.


because I had to,
that's all.
To put it simply:
Why would you take such a job?

...I would have thought
you had no interest in anyone but Ms. Himeno.
...
Tell me the not-simple version

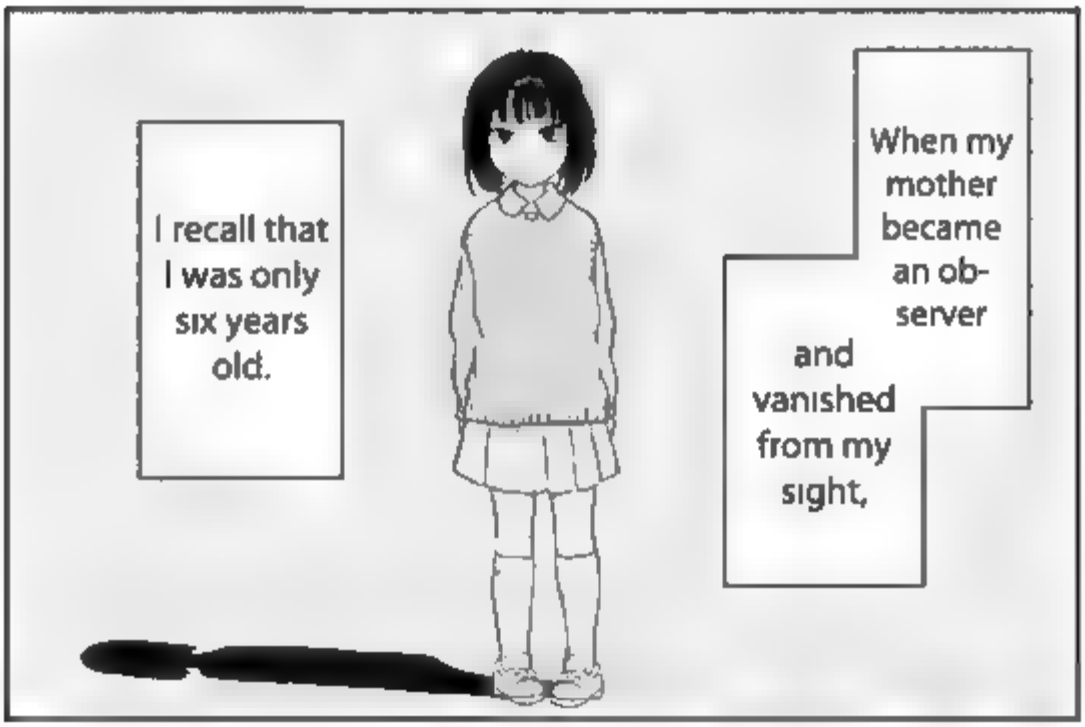
That's not true at all.
If I didn't see any charm in you,
I wouldn't have considered what I did earlier.
..Is that right.
Thanks, I suppose

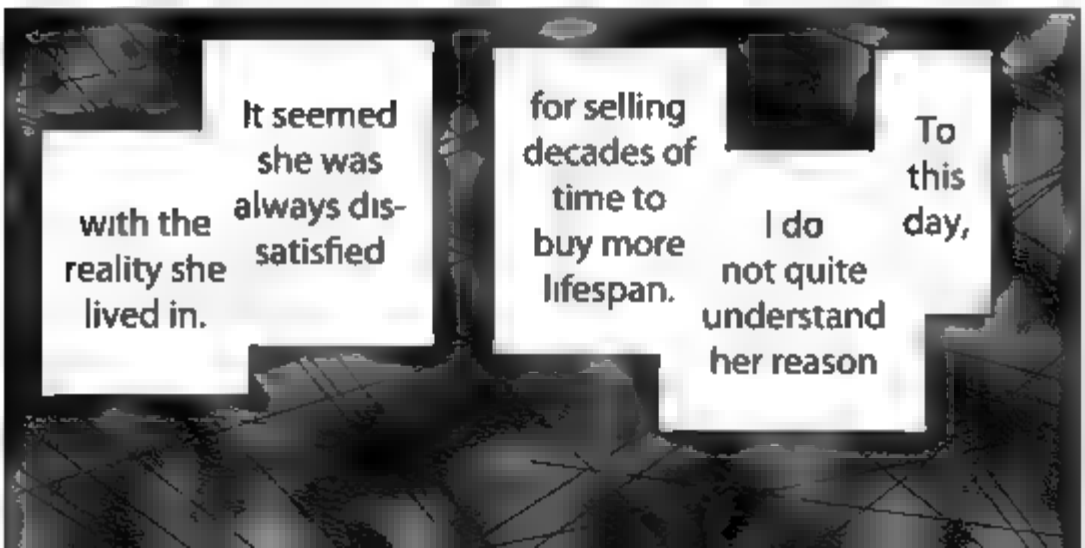
You don't have to talk,
if you don't want to.
No, well,
I have nothing particularly to hide in my past...

I already told you that one can sell not just life-span, but also health and time, yes?
In short,
I sold my time.
Roughly thirty years of it

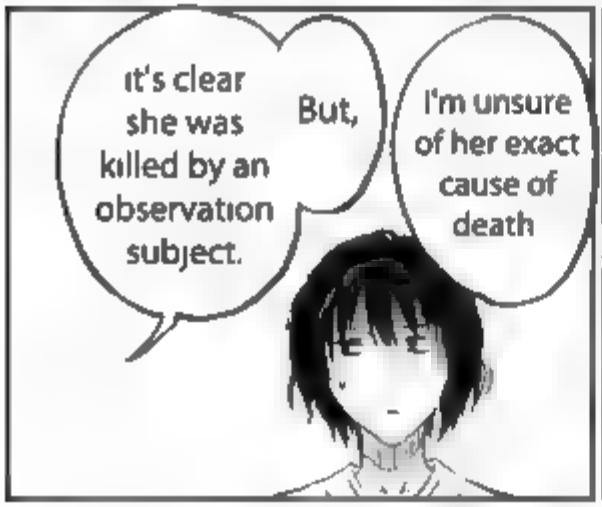
Most of the observers are people who came to the shop like you
and chose to sell their time.
Though by doing so,
they effectively sold their safety and relationships as well...
If you sold thirty years, that means you'll be free in your forties?
Indeed I will.
Of course, that's only... assuming I survive to see it.
... Why would you need money that bad?
What if I told you it's not very interesting?
...Oh well

There's still time
until the train comes, I suppose ..


I recall that I was only six years old.
When my mother became an observer
and vanished from my sight,


It seemed she was always dissatisfied
with the reality she lived in.
for selling decades of time to buy more lifespan.
To this day,
I do not quite understand her reason

I wish this sorry excuse had never been born...
...she frequently reminded me.
And she hated me in turn,
...I hated that miserable mother of mine.


It's clear she was killed by an observation subject.
But,
I'm unsure of her exact cause of death

when I was age ten,
she died
A few years into being an observer,

When I first heard that,
I wondered if that wasn't considered fraud.
As much as you may extend your lifespan,
injury and illness are another matter entirely.

You have a debt.
told me something else of importance.
...The man who informed me of her death

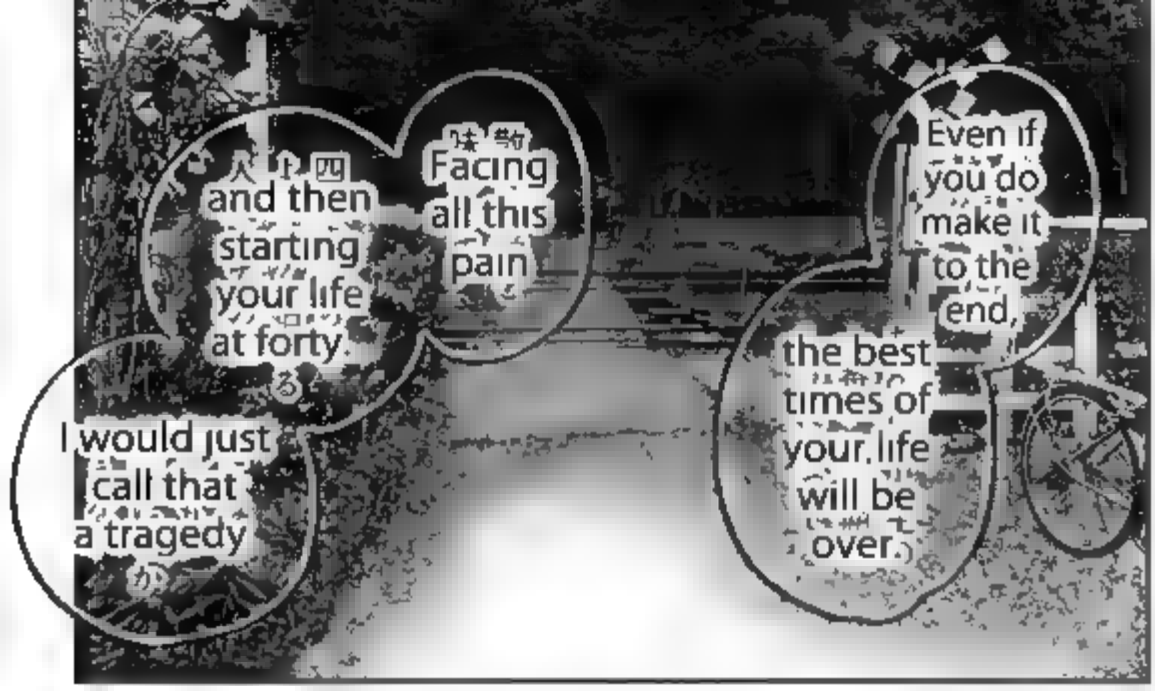
for you to pay it back now.
There are only three ways
The enormous debt my mother left

Those are your options.
or sell your health.
Sell your lifespan,
sell your time,

So then, you picked time.
Indeed.
And that brings me to today, living as an observer.

It's a lonely line of work, with many dangers.
But for what it's worth, it has given me deep insight into people's lifestyles and the value of life.

Thinking of it in those terms, it's not such a bad job.
I don't get it.
I think I'd just sell off a life like that.


Even if you do make it to the end,
the best times of your life will be over.
Facing all this pain
and then starting your life at forty.
I would just call that a tragedy

So it'd be better to sell it.
If my life-span were actually worth anything,
certainly I would do so.

What's it worth?
The same as yours.

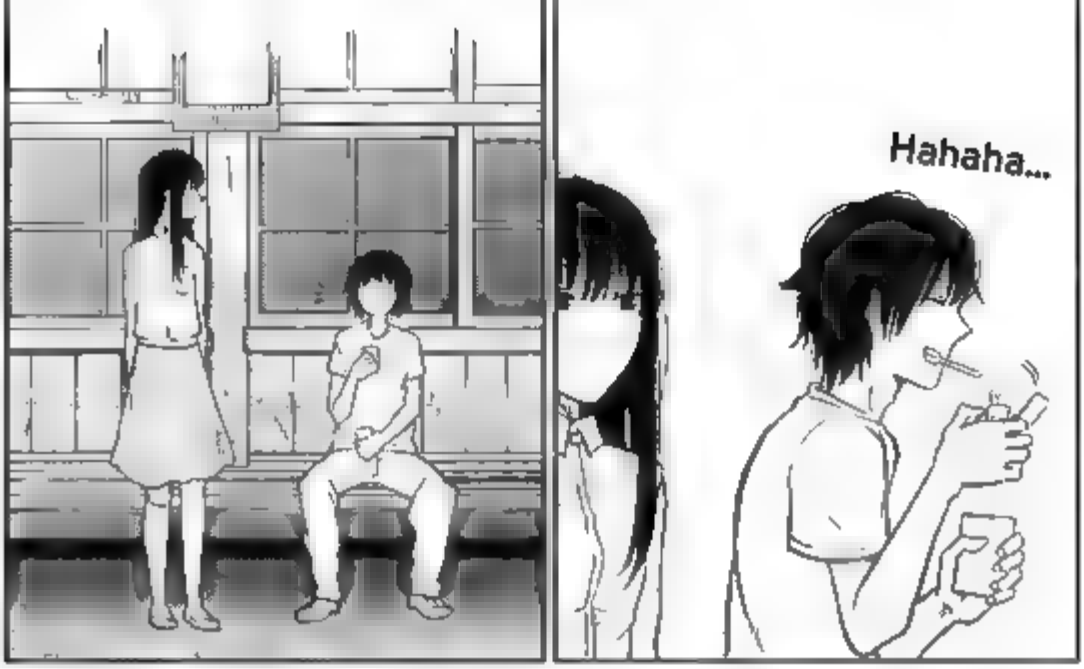
10,000 yen per year.
If I've been overly harsh with you,
I believe it's because of how you overlap with myself.
So I apologize for taking it out on you.

...Well, I don't wanna be rude,
but isn't that even more reason to just die already?
It means there's nothing to look forward to.
Yes, you're right.
You're absolutely right.

There's no point in living,
I'm an irreconcilable fool.
yet I'm compelled to survive.
because I take after my mother, who bought lifespan and clung to hope.
in essence,
And yet I suppose I can't do so,

Don't you think?
"Perhaps something good will happen someday."
You see, it's not that simple.
But...

Yes,
so do I.
I know a guy who died saying that to himself and getting nothing out of it.


Hahaha...

click
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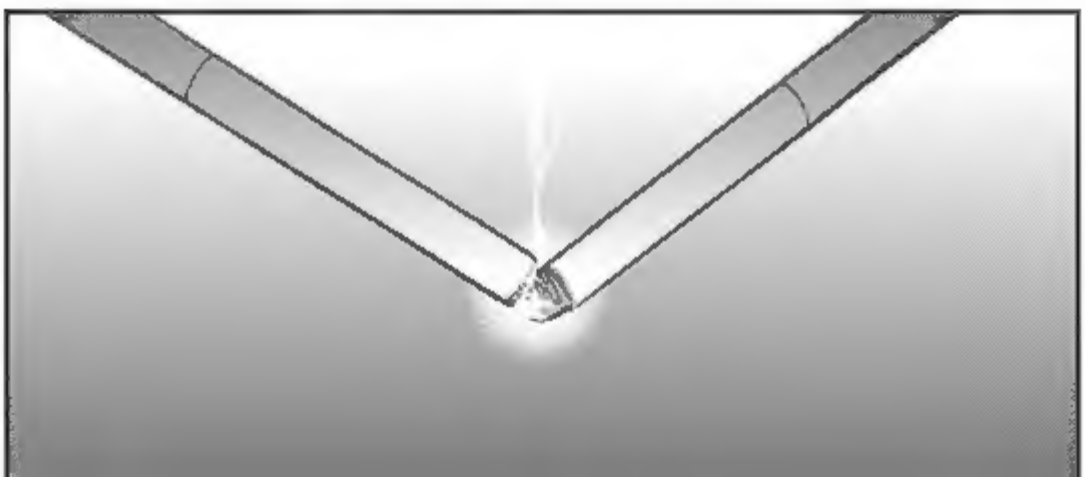
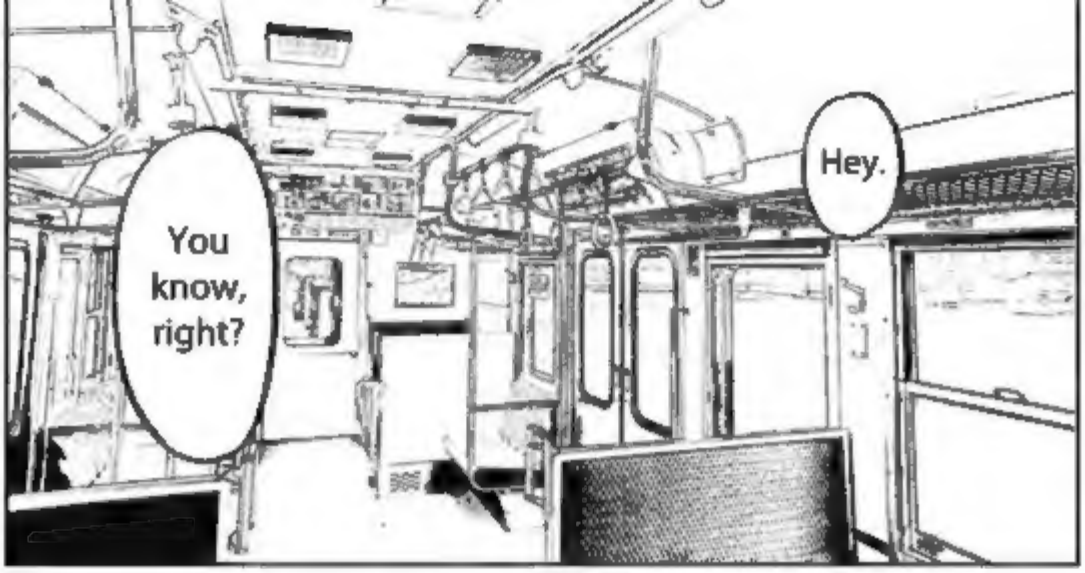


Seeing Miyagi relaxing for the first time,
I told myself:

せめて彼女にとって
一番傍にいて楽だった
監視対象者として
記憶されようと
I'll at least have her remember me as the easiest subject to be around.


Hey.
You know, right?

About what Himeno's like now.
Could you tell me?

...
It will be harsh.
Yeah, yeah.
I still want to know.
Under-stood.
Then I will tell you.

About Ms. Himeno's life
over the ten years you've been apart.